



Family of assailant seeks retrial

AMMAN (R) — The family of a Palestinian, sentenced to death by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for killing three of its leaders, appealed Tuesday for him to be retried in Tunis where the attack took place. Hamza Abu Zeid, 28, was convicted by a Palestinian military court in Yemen this month of shooting Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), the right-hand man of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Hael Abdul Hamid and a top Khalaf aide on Jan. 16. The PLO says it will execute him in Yemen after Ramadan which ends in about a week. "Hamza was questioned by the Tunisians for what happened in Tunis and they decided it was a politically-motivated crime related to internal PLO struggles and handed him over to the PLO," said Abdullah Abu Zeid, one of Hamza's brothers. "According to international law and practices, a Tunis court should try him and Tunisian laws should be applied because he committed his crime there," he told Reuters, saying he spoke on behalf of the whole family.

Jordan Times

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Iraqi leader meets Yemeni minister

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein held talks on Tuesday with a visiting Yemeni minister on Tuesday, the Iraq News Agency (INA) said. INA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Mohammad Ahmad Suleiman, the Yemeni housing minister, delivered a message to President Saddam from President Ali Abdullah Saleh. It gave no details of the message, Yemen denounced Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which caused the Gulf war, but opposed the presence of foreign troops in the region and called for an Arab solution to the crisis.

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Lebanon asks Egypt, Syria to push Baker

BEIRUT (R) — President Elias Hrawi asked Syria and Egypt Tuesday to press U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for an end to Israel's occupation of South Lebanon. Officials said Mr. Hrawi asked Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to urge Mr. Baker to work towards the implementation of a U.N. resolution calling on Israel to leave Lebanon. Mr. Baker, now visiting Israel, is due in Cairo and Damascus this week. The officials said Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak promised to discuss the issue with him. Some 1,000 Israeli troops and a 3,000-strong allied Lebanese militia hold a border "security zone" established in 1985 and running up to 15 kilometres into Lebanese territory. U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 calls for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon. It was adopted following an Israeli incursion in 1978.

Banks to cancel debts of Kuwaitis

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's commercial banks will cancel debts totalling some 1.4 billion dinars (\$4.9 billion) owed by 180,000 citizens, the governor of the central bank was quoted Tuesday as saying. It was the first official disclosure of the amount to be written off under a decree announced by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Sunday night. Radio Kuwait quoted Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Saud Al Sabah as telling the London-based Sawt Al Kuwait newspaper that the six local commercial banks would pay full interest on deposits for the period of the seven-month Iraqi occupation. He did not disclose how much this would involve.

Afghanistan sacks Kishmand

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Afghan government has sacked senior Vice-President Sultan Ali Kishmand, the official Bakhtar news agency said Tuesday. He was replaced by a junior vice-president, Abdul Wahid Sarobi, said the agency. Bakhtar gave no reason for the dismissal, which it said had been unanimously approved Monday by a joint session of both houses of parliament.

Pulitzer prizes announced

NEW YORK (AP) — The Des Moines Register won the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for public service Tuesday for a story about a woman who had been raped. The story prompted widespread reconsideration of the traditional media practice of concealing the identity of rape victims. The spot news reporting Pulitzer went to the staff of the Miami Herald for stories about a local cult leader. Joseph T. Hallinan and Susan M. Headen of the Indianapolis Star won the Pulitzer for investigative reporting for a series on medical malpractice. The Wall Street Journal's Susan C. Faludi won the 1991 Pulitzer for explanatory journalism for a report on the leveraged buyout of Safeway Stores Inc. that revealed the human costs of high finance. Reporters Marjorie Lundstrom and Rochelle Sharpe of Gaunett News Service won the Pulitzer prize for national reporting for a story that disclosed that hundreds of child abuse-related deaths are undetected each year as a result of errors by medical examiners. The beat reporting Pulitzer was awarded to Natalie Angier of the New York Times for her reports on a variety of scientific topics. The Washington Post's Caryle Murphy and the New York Times' Serge Schmemmann won the Pulitzer for international reporting. Murphy won for her stories filed from Kuwait and Schmemmann won for his coverage of the reunification of Germany. The Pulitzer for feature writing went to Sheryl James of the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times for stories about a mother who abandoned her newborn child. Jim Hoagland of the Washington Post won the Pulitzer for columns on events leading up to the Gulf war and the political problems of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Combined agency dispatches

THE SECURITY Council appeared likely Tuesday to delay the formal declaration of a Gulf war ceasefire because it had not yet received the text of a decree by Iraq's National Assembly accepting the council's terms. British and United States diplomats said council members approved the wording of a letter to Iraq saying its foreign minister had given irrevocable and unqualified acceptance of a tough council resolution setting ceasefire terms, and that a ceasefire "is therefore now effective."

But the council was still awaiting a copy of the National Assembly document, also referred to in the letter to be sent to Iraqi U.N.

Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari

Council members disclosed the hitch as they arrived for closed-door consultations to give final approval for the letter.

The hitch appeared to be only technical, but was sufficient to delay for perhaps 24 hours the despatch of the letter declaring the existence of a ceasefire.

The ceasefire, when eventually declared, will replace an informal cessation of hostilities that has been in effect since the end of February between Iraq and the United States-led alliance that forced it from Kuwait.

The ceasefire permits the despatch of a U.N. observer force to patrol a demilitarised zone on the Iraq-Kuwait border and pave the way for the withdrawal of

about 100,000 U.S. troops occupying part of southern Iraq.

The letter approved by council members' acknowledged receipt of Iraq's acceptance last Saturday of U.N. Resolution 687, setting terms for a ceasefire.

These include scrapping Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction and earmarking part of its oil revenues for war reparations.

While the Iraqi note, signed by Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein, was filled with objections to various provisions of the draft, its penultimate paragraph said Baghdad "has no choice but to accept this resolution."

The response from council President Paul Hain said that paragraph "contains

official notification of the acceptance, irrevocable and without qualifying conditions, by Iraq of Resolution 687 (1991), in accordance with paragraph 33 of that resolution."

Mr. Noterdame pins the Iraqis down further, adding: "This was affirmed to me during my meeting with you (Mr. Anbari) on April 8," while also noting that Iraq's National Assembly accepted the resolution on April 6.

"The members of the Security Council have, lastly, asked me to note that the conditions established in paragraph 33 of Resolution 687 (1991) have now been met and that the formal ceasefire referred to in paragraph 33 of that resolution is therefore now effective," the letter concluded.

Paragraph 33 of Resolution 687, adopted on April 3, "declares that, upon official notification by Iraq to the secretary general and to the Security Council of its acceptance of the provisions above, a formal ceasefire is effective between Iraq and Kuwait and the member states cooperating with Kuwait in accordance with Resolution 687 (1990)."

The council was to hold an open meeting to approve the mandate of a U.N. observer team to patrol a demilitarised zone extending 10 kilometres into Iraq and five kilometres into Kuwait, as also stipulated in the ceasefire resolution. The 1,440-man unit, called the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), will com-

prise 300 observers and five infantry companies to ensure security, as well as a field engineering unit to help clear mines, a logistics unit and an air wing equipped with planes and helicopters.

The White House said Tuesday that U.S. surveillance flights would continue over Iraq, even after American forces have been withdrawn, to make sure the U.N.-imposed ceasefire is being respected.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater did not say how long the flights would continue.

Mr. Fitzwater also said the administration was studying a European proposal for a U.N.-protected refugee zone in northern Iraq to accommodate the thousands of Kurds.

"We are discussing it. We think

it has some merit," Mr. Fitzwater said.

The United States has been dropping food, blankets and other supplies to Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq since Sunday.

Mr. Fitzwater said withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Gulf would be sharply accelerated next Friday once the U.N. observer force is in place.

There are now 350,000 U.S. forces in the Gulf region, down from 540,000 when President George Bush called a halt to the war on Feb. 27.

Mr. Fitzwater said the U.N. observer force would total some 1,400 members, including both armed and unarmed contingents. "The question of U.S. participation is still undetermined," he said.

Hitch holds up formal Gulf ceasefire

Iraq rejects border enclave call, warns Turkey and Iran

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRIME Minister Saddam Hammadi said Tuesday his country would fight calls for a Kurdish refuge in his country, but a Kurdish rebel leader welcomed the plan.

The United States, Britain and France flew supply missions for the hordes of refugees backed up along the Turkish and Iranian borders. About one million had reportedly already crossed.

Dr. Hammadi said Iraq rejected the British plan for a U.N.-

protected enclave inside his country "and will oppose it by all means."

In remarks carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), Dr. Hammadi accused Western nations of "fabricating this (refugee) problem and exaggerating it."

He said his country had already taken steps to solve the problem, including an amnesty for Kurdish rebels and offering transportation for refugees who want to return home.

"Iraq's statement says every-

thing about its contempt for human life," said Britain's Foreign Office in a statement on the Iraqi response.

Speaking in an interview on British Television, Dr. Hammadi said the idea behind creating an enclave was not humanitarian but part of a plot by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) against Baghdad.

"This whole thing is engineered, conducted by the CIA. This is not a human campaign, it looks human but there are political, diplomatic purposes and

(Continued on page 4)

Masri to present Jordan's views to Baker in Geneva

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri has described his planned meeting in Geneva this week with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as important and said the Middle East region was expected to witness new developments related to the Palestine problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Geneva meeting on Friday will be dedicated to consultations and to discussing general topics related to American ideas and Jordan's role in the peace-making process, the minister told Jordan Television and the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Stressing Jordan's importance in the peace process in virtue of it being the Arab country with the longest confrontation line with Israel and the closest to the Palestinian people, the minister said that he would present Jordan's views and will make it clear that the Kingdom will adhere to its declared position.

But, he said, Jordan looks to the future with an open mind. The minister said the opportunity could present itself for opening "a new door" as long as the United States continues to declare its deep concern over and commitment to finding a solution to the Middle East conflict.

Referring to Mr. Baker's current tour of the region, Mr. Masri said that the U.S. secretary would be following up on the talks held in the earlier tour of last month. Jordan is not aware of any American views because Mr. Baker did not come to Jordan in the earlier tour, and did not meet with any Jordanian official, Mr. Masri said.

But the second tour in so many months indicates that the Americans have something new in mind and this could be disclosed after Mr. Baker's return to Washington, the minister said. Mr. Masri said that Mr. Baker had expressed a desire to meet with Jordanian officials and an agreement was reached between the two sides that such meeting should be held in a foreign country.

Asked if there was any coordination between Jordan and other Arab countries with regard to Washington's current moves to solve the Middle East conflict, Mr. Masri said that such coordination and consultation with certain Arab states existed. He referred to His Majesty King Hussein's contacts with Arab leaders and his own tour of the Arab Maghreb Union countries as part of coordination in this regard.

Depending on the outcome of the Geneva meeting, Mr. Masri said, Jordan will intensify its efforts and contacts with the Arab countries because Amman would like to reach a unified stand with regard to the Middle East question.

U.S., Israel agree in principle over regional peace conference

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States and Israel agreed in principle on Tuesday to work for a regional Middle East peace conference but a host of practical problems remained to be worked out, a senior U.S. official said.

Briefing reporters after Secretary of State James Baker met Israeli leaders and a group of Palestinian nationalists, the official said:

"The idea of having a meeting has been agreed. The details, format, location, timing, participants — none of these were worked out."

After meeting Mr. Baker for 90 minutes, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy suggested there was broad agreement on the underlying aims of such a conference which would be chaired by the United States and attended by

the Soviet Union, Israel and Arab states.

He did not say who would represent the Palestinians.

Mr. Baker, who later met separately Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and six Palestinian leaders, cautioned against undue optimism.

"I agree we have had a productive and very constructive meeting this morning and I don't wish to diminish that in any way by saying that there is a long, long way to go," he said.

"There are many, many parties involved. There are a lot of questions before us that have to be addressed and that have not been resolved, so I hope that there is no rush to judgement here."

Mr. Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said Mr. Baker would

meet the prime minister again on Wednesday before leaving for Egypt, the next destination on his Middle East tour. Mr. Pazner said Tuesday's meeting was "very good" but gave no further details.

Mr. Baker was in the region for the second time in a month to pursue Middle East peace efforts, hoping to exploit Washington's new standing in the region following the Gulf war.

He was to travel from Egypt to Syria and planned to meet the Jordanian foreign minister in Geneva Friday.

The U.S. official said the aim of a regional conference was to break long-standing taboos that had prevented direct talks between Israel and Arabs and pave the way for substantive bilateral

(Continued on page 4)

Egypt, Palestinians in Cairo reject regional parley idea

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIANS IN Cairo said on Tuesday a regional Middle East conference agreed upon by Israel and the United States would not achieve peace.

Egypt also rejected Israel's proposals for separate negotiations with Arab governments for solving the Middle East conflict, the leading state-owned newspaper Al Ahram reported in its Wednesday early edition.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, currently visiting Israel and due in Cairo Wednesday, agreed in principle with Israeli officials to hold regional talks, but practical details were yet to be worked out, a senior U.S.

official said.

"In principle, we reject a regional conference in substance and form," said a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official in Cairo who asked not to be named.

"A regional gathering will not achieve peace because it excludes parties integral to the conflict," he said.

He said an international conference, approved by Egypt and Arab states, would guarantee that all parties in the conflict would be involved. Palestinians would have the right to self-determination and Israel would be forced to get out of Lebanon and return the Golan Heights to

Syria.

"It (international conference) won't solve only one problem, but all Middle East problems," the PLO official told Reuters.

"If Israel and the United States have indeed agreed on a regional conference, then the United States is no longer able to find peace in the region," another PLO official said. "Israel and the United States are strong allies, so there will be no opponents and no judges in this case."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said this month he did not approve of a regional conference, but a gathering grouping the five permanent members of

(Continued on page 4)

Palestinians disappointed over talks with Baker

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Disappointed Palestinian leaders said their talks Tuesday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker revealed no apparent change in U.S. or Israeli policies towards the occupied territories.

"Really, we can't tell you about anything encouraging out of this meeting," said Dr. Haydar Al Shafi, one of the six Palestinians who had a two-hour session with Mr. Baker.

Another physician from the Gaza Strip, Dr. Zakaria Al Agha, concurred. Asked at a news conference if he had anything to take back to Gazans, he said: "Indeed, I don't find anything to tell them."

The closed-door meeting was the second in a month between Mr. Baker and Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The six support of the mainstream Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). They said PLO headquarters in Tunis approved the meeting.

Other PLO factions and the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas group boycotted the talks because the March 12 meeting with Mr. Baker produced no results.

Faisal Hussein said Mr. Baker brought up the idea of a regional peace conference to launch negotiations with Arab states and the Palestinians in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

He quoted Mr. Baker as saying there was "more than one alternative about how this regional conference can be built," but he declined to elaborate, saying: "There are a lot of points which must be clarified."

He cautioned that Palestinians were not happy about Mr. Baker's "two-track" approach of separating the Arab-Israeli conflict from that of the Palestinians.

"Actually we don't much like this idea," Mr. Hussein said. "We would like to see the whole problem resolved in one way and not to solve one problem on the account of another problem."

He repeated the Palestinians' demand to be represented in negotiations by the PLO.

Mr. Hussein also expressed disappointment that Mr. Baker did not get Israel to ease up on expelling Palestinian activists, settling Jews in the occupied territories or putting economic constraints on Palestinian workers.

He said he wanted to see practical measures, not "theoretical

things."

The Palestinians said they were especially concerned about Israel's settlement policy, which has put about 85,000 Jews in the occupied territories.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon on Monday reiterated his plan to build 13,000 new homes in the occupied territories over the next two years.

"As the United States admits, this process of settlements is in contradiction to the prospects for peace," Mr. Shafi said. "We asked if they are willing to prevail on Israel to stop the settlement process, and the answer was no."

Mr. Hussein said Mr. Baker repeated Washington's view that the settlements are impeding peace, "but we didn't hear from Mr. Baker any promise that the United States will stop such policies."

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said the settlements amounted to annexing the occupied territories. Still, he suggested there were opportunities after the Gulf war for peace. "The present time is a momentous time for a breakthrough," Mr. Freij said. "We asked many questions, and we expect to receive some answers."

Elections likely in 16 months — Kuwaiti minister

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A Kuwaiti cabinet minister has said that promised parliamentary elections would probably be held in 16 months time, far later than the opposition demands.

Cabinet Affairs Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said the elections promised by Kuwait's emir Sunday were likely to be held in August or September next year. Opposition groups have cautiously welcomed the emir's election pledge by saying it does not fully match their demands for democracy.

Mr. Awadi explained that 400,000 Kuwaitis were still abroad after the Gulf war and were not expected to return until the end of this year.

Voter registration traditionally took place in February and a two-month period was then allowed for objections to be lodged.

"I don't think (the election) will be more than two or three months after that," Mr. Awadi told a news conference. Asked if this would mean elections in August 1992, he said: "August or September, yes."

Mr. Awadi's statement seemed certain to disappoint opposition democracy campaigners, some of whom want elections within six months. One said he was "uncomfortable" about the prospect of a long delay.

Opposition groups are campaigning for restoration of parliament, which was dissolved in 1986 by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, citing security concerns.

Kuwaitis have become more vocal in their calls for political reform since a U.S.-led coalition ended the seven-month Iraqi occupation in February.

Mr. Awadi said official political parties would not contest the election because there was no current law permitting parties. But a new parliament would be able to pass a law creating political parties, he said, and press freedom would be total.

On the emir's suggestion to give a political role to women, Mr. Awadi said he hoped women would be able to vote in next

year's elections. He said the electorate might double from its previous 75,000, out of the total Kuwaiti population of just over 600,000.

The emir's promise, in his first speech since returning from Gulf war exile in Saudi Arabia, was a concession to Western and opposition pressure for change, political analysts said.

"His Highness sort of met us half way by pinpointing the issues which we will try to solve by discussion," said Isa Al Shaheen, spokesman of the conservative Muslim Brotherhood, one of four main opposition groups.

Mr. Awadi said he hoped Prime Minister and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah would name a new cabinet soon after the fasting month of Ramadan ends next week. The previous cabinet resigned three weeks ago.

He said the government was acting to stop attacks on Palestinians, some of whom are accused by Kuwaitis of collaborating with the Iraqis. Some security force members had been court-martialled for injustices, he said.

The emir also made clear on Sunday that he was still concerned about the threat from Iraq and asked Western and Arab states to keep their forces in Kuwait.

"They won't feel safe unless there are Western troops here," one Western diplomat said. But the United States and other Western countries were unlikely to agree to station ground forces permanently in the emirate, he added.

U.S. President George Bush, whose troops led the war against Iraq, has said they will withdraw as soon as a United Nations peacekeeping force has moved in to police the border under the ceasefire accord — possibly by the end of this month.

The speaker of Kuwait's dissolved parliament, Ahmad Saadoun, returned home Monday and added his voice to opposition calls for immediate general elections.

"These should be a parliament right now," Mr. Saadoun said.

36 Greeks killed in Turkey bus fire

ISTANBUL (AP) — A double-decker bus carrying Greek tourists on Easter vacation caught fire here on Tuesday, killing at least 36 people trapped inside, police said. A travel agent and witness said a Turk had set fire to the bus.

The vehicle burst into flames as it was parked in front of a hotel and was about to leave on a sightseeing trip around Istanbul.

At least five of the 36 dead were children, a police official told the Associated Press, speaking on the usual condition of anonymity.

Ana Gotsis, the manager of Agelos Tours, which organised the trip, told the AP in Athens, "A Turkish man got on the bus, poured gasoline on the seats and set it on fire." She said he had been hospitalised with burns.

"I don't know why this happened," she said, adding that she had received her information from colleagues in Istanbul.

If the claim is true, the incident could inflame tensions between traditional rivals Turkey and Greece. They are already bitterly split over such issues as the divided island of Cyprus.

Police detained two suspects for questioning in connection with the fire, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. It gave no details.

One of the Greek tourists, Tassos Jordanides, told the AP, "I saw some liquid dripping down the stairs (of the upper deck of the bus). I got up and looked up the stairs and saw this man pouring something from a bottle. And then, he struck a match. Suddenly the whole place was engulfed in flames and thick smoke."

He said he called for the doors to be opened, and they were. "I saw a man of about 50 or 60 with his hair in flames jumping out ... I grabbed my wife and jumped out." He added he did not know if the man pouring the liquid was Turkish.

His account varied with reports from officials that the bus doors had been closed, and that the bus driver had been unable to open them.

The red-and-white bus was gutted by the blaze. Its windows were charred and broken, and some of the seats were burned to ghostly black metal skeletons.

The television initially reported the bus was overturned, but it actually had stayed upright. On the side of the Greek bus was written Agelos Tours of Athens.

Most of the victims died of smoke inhalation, according to Abdurrahman Kilic, the chief of the fire brigade in Istanbul. The bus carried 60 Greek passengers, Gotsis said. It caught fire at around 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) in the Lalali district, a residential area with many hotels.

Jordanides said he tried to break the bus windows with concrete blocks, but it was too late to save the occupants. A receptionist at the Hamidiye hotel, where the tourists had been staying, said they were part of a group of 120 Greek visitors that arrived on Saturday. They were about to set out on two buses Tuesday morning to tour Istanbul, he said, declining to be identified.

He added that the tourists were carrying small burners they had used on their bus journey from Greece.

"I saw charred bodies hanging out of the bus. Nothing was left of the bus," said an employee of another nearby hotel, declining to give his name.

EC summit wants Iraqi president toppled

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The leaders of the 12 European Community (EC) states, in the clearest statement yet of their desire to see Iraqi President Saddam Hussein go, say Iraq will be an international pariah as long as he is president.

The heads of government, setting out on a collision course with Baghdad, also agreed in their summit Monday to push for an enclave in northern Iraq where the millions of Kurds would be safe under United Nations control.

"The European Council (summit) cannot conceive how Iraq can rejoin the community of civilised nations for as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power," said Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer, whose country holds the EC's rotating presidency.

The plight of the millions of Kurdish refugees, brought home to European public opinion by vivid television coverage, robbed France of a chance to ram through ambitious proposals for giving the EC a common foreign and security policy — its original aim when it called the summit last month.

But Paris used its setback to demonstrate how the EC could handle military issues in the future, calling an unscheduled ministerial meeting of the Western European Union (WEU) defence body as a surprise side-show to the summit.

The WEU, whose roster of members is identical to the EC's minus Denmark, Greece and Ireland, is the body most EC states say should one day handle defence matters for the community.

Largely dormant since its creation in the 1950s, the WEU sprang to life during the Gulf crisis to coordinate the dispatch

of European warships to the region.

It will now handle the logistics of EC aid to the Kurds and experts were due to meet on Tuesday to prepare a gathering of chiefs of staff from the nine nations on Wednesday.

Details of the proposed U.N.-controlled enclave, suggested by British Prime Minister John Major after an idea floated on Sunday by Turkish President Turgut Ozal, were sketchy.

But Mr. Major and others dropped strong hints that the plan could be put in practice through force, if, as appears likely, Iraq rejects it.

"If Saddam Hussein continues to violate (the United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Iraq's treatment of the Kurds) ... we should return to the Security Council to enforce that resolution," Mr. Major said.

The Security Council was the forum which stamped international legitimacy on the U.S. and allied campaign against Iraq.

Diplomats said the summit's decision to leave all decisions to the United Nations, with the exception of a massive \$180 million in immediate humanitarian relief for the refugees, was likely to be well received in Washington.

The diplomat said U.S. President George Bush had asked Mr. Santer in a brief letter just before the summit to give the world body a role in the EC's Gulf moves.

Mr. Santer and Jacques Delors, president of the EC's Executive European Commission, travel to Washington this week as part of regular transatlantic contacts and will discuss Gulf problems with Mr. Bush and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

214,000 U.S. soldiers have left Gulf — military

RIYADH (R) — About 214,000 U.S. troops, more than a third of those sent to the Gulf, have gone home but their rate of departure has not been accelerated by Iraq's acceptance of U.N. ceasefire terms, the U.S. military said on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the U.S. central command in Riyadh told Reuters there were about 326,000 U.S. soldiers in the area compared with a peak of 540,000 before the war with Iraq was halted at the end of February.

But he said U.S. soldiers were still leaving at an average rate of 3,000 to 5,000 per day, and there were no plans to speed up the withdrawal from southern Iraq or the Gulf until United Nations peacekeeping forces began arriving.

"Nothing has been said about a rapid re-deployment of forces within Iraq," the military spokesman said. "We are moving them home as scheduled and will continue to do so until a mechanism for putting U.N. forces on the ground has begun," he added.

The U.N. Security Council is set to approve sending a 1,440-strong United Nations observer force to a demilitarised zone along the Iraq-Kuwait border after Baghdad gave the council its acceptance of ceasefire terms last Saturday.

The force, to be known as the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), will patrol an area extending 10 kilometres into Iraq and five kilometres into Kuwait.

U.S.-led allied forces still occupy 15 per cent of Iraq. The spokesman said the departure of the 2nd Armoured Cavalry, which was stationed deepest inside Iraq, did not signal the start of an accelerated withdrawal.

The 5,000-strong regiment began pulling out from positions near the Euphrates River in southern Iraq Sunday.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that the withdrawal of about 100,000 U.S. troops from

the allied-controlled region will take place in stages over several weeks.

The 2nd Armoured Cavalry includes more than 5,000 soldiers attached to 7th corps which participated in the Feb. 23-27 ground attack in the Euphrates River basin.

The newspaper said U.S. President George Bush would make the final decision on when the last troops leave Iraq and when American air patrols would cease.

Defence Department officials said that after pulling back to Saudi Arabia, a more gradual withdrawal of the troops still in the Gulf region will take place, with the final pullout of major ground units sometime this summer.

A senior Defence Department official said the pace of the U.S. withdrawal would be determined in part by Iraq's performance in living up to the terms of the U.N. ceasefire resolution.

The resolution mandates the destruction of any remaining chemical, biological or nuclear weapons materials and payment of reparations to Kuwait.

Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov said Monday that foreign forces in the Gulf should be reduced to pre-crisis levels now the war with Iraq was over.

"We do not have a clear idea yet of what the Americans intend to do in the Gulf. At the beginning of the conflict, the United States said their forces would be reduced to what they were before," he told a news conference.

"Our position is that foreign forces should be reduced to their pre-crisis levels... the creation of a security system in the Persian Gulf must be the concern of the states themselves and we believe that Iraq should be part of it."

Mr. Belonogov said Moscow would try to establish good relations with both Iraq and Kuwait and make a Gulf security system part of an overall Middle East security structure.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Schwarzkopf offer report denied

DALLAS (R) — The White House Monday denied a report that President George Bush had offered General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of Operation Desert Storm, the post of U.S. army chief of staff. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, travelling with Mr. Bush in Texas, denied a Newsweek magazine report that Mr. Bush had offered Gen. Schwarzkopf the job but that the general had turned it down. The magazine, quoting friends, said the general known as "Stormin' Norman" plans instead to retire this summer and write his memoirs. A book deal could bring the war hero, who was head of allied forces in the Gulf war, an advance of as much as \$4 million, according to Newsweek. As a lecturer, he could command an estimated \$60,000 per speech. The current army chief of staff, General Carl Vuono, is due to step down from the post in June.

Swiss offer to host Afghan talks

BERNE (R) — Switzerland has offered to host informal talks between the two sides in the fighting in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Rene Felber told a news conference Monday. Mr. Felber said he hoped that representatives of the Afghan government and Mujahadeen rebel forces could find a peaceful solution to 12 years of war if they met. He did not say if the two sides had accepted the offer. Mr. Felber was speaking after a five-day visit to Iran and Turkey, where he met Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Turkish President Turgut Ozal. The Iranian government reacted positively to the Swiss proposal. Mr. Felber added, Both Switzerland and Iran agreed on the necessity for a diplomatic solution to the Afghan conflict.

Saudis sending relief to Iraqi refugees

NICOSIA (R) — King Fahd has ordered Saudi Arabian officials to send relief supplies through international channels to help ease the plight of Iraqi refugees, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. He issued the order at the weekly cabinet meeting Monday, SPA said. The agency did not describe the nature of the aid. Up to two million Kurds and Shi'ite Muslims from northern and southern Iraq have overwhelmed areas along the borders with Iran and Turkey.

Six die in Sudan helicopter crash

KHARTOUM (R) — Six people were killed Monday when a helicopter crashed 50 seconds after taking off from an air force base in Khartoum, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Tuesday. SUNA said three of the dead were air force pilots while the other three belonged to a local television crew. SUNA attributed the crash to a technical fault. The agency did not say where the six were heading.

Polisario leader's spokesman defects

PARIS (R) — Moustapha Bouh, spokesman for Polisario Front leader Mohammed Aziz, quit the Sahara guerrilla movement Monday and urged others to do the same. Mr. Bouh told Reuters he was returning home Wednesday to Morocco, from which Polisario guerrillas have been trying for more than 25 years to wrest control of the Western Sahara. "I want all Saharans to go home," he said. "The Polisario leadership has no political vision. The world has changed. They haven't understood a thing." Mr. Bouh was a member of the Polisario Front's politburo and in charge of a Polisario refugee camp. Mr. Abdul Aziz, secretary-general of the Polisario Front and president of the self-proclaimed Saharan democratic republic, said in February that Morocco must make more concessions to implement a United Nations peace plan. Both sides have accepted a proposed U.N. referendum on the future of the former Spanish territory. But they disagree on conditions for holding the referendum, especially on the presence of Moroccan troops.

Egypt jails Iraq Airways manager

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court has sentenced the manager of the Iraqi Airways office in Cairo to six months in jail with hard labour, the state-run Al Akhbar newspaper said. The newspaper said the manager was arrested in November for illegally closing his office, "infringing on the (rights of) the employees working in it." No other details were given and the woman's nationality was not mentioned.

Hachette freeze 'Iraq-owned' stake

PARIS (R) — French media group Hachette said Monday it was freezing an 8.43 per cent stake held by a Swiss holding company alleged to represent powerful Iraqi interests, including those of President Saddam Hussein. A spokeswoman said the company had decided to freeze the stake held in it by Geneva-based Montana management in accordance with U.N. resolutions last August freezing Iraqi assets. A U.S. private investigator said last month Montana was controlled by associates of President Saddam. "This decision should put an end to excessive, unfair, often unfounded comments ... which could, in the long run, mislead public opinion and harm our international image," Hachette said. The company said it consulted the French treasury, the U.S. treasury, investigator Jules Kroll, who made the allegations of Iraqi control, Montana's Geneva representative, international banks and the government of Panama, where Montana is registered. Montana's managers gave no more information than in 1989 when the holding company first took its stake, Hachette said. They described Montana as a holding company for several citizens of various Gulf countries.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We, HAYA TRADING & TECHNOLOGY EST., announce to all trading companies and establishments inside and outside the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan that Mr. V.S. CHANDRAN, Indian national, holder of passport No. 304 319, has left the establishment as from March 1991.

Any person dealing with Mr. Chandran on our behalf will be prosecuted.

Just weeks after war, sales pitch for arms changes tone

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — The dust has barely settled after Operation Desert Storm, but already some defence companies are using the performance of their weapons to beat the competition in a cut-throat market.

The latest advertisement by the makers of the fearsome multiple launch rocket system — which rained cascades of high-explosives on Iraqi positions — shows a picture of parched and cracked terrain.

Superimposed under the title "Report from the Desert" are simple tributes to the system's efficiency during the Gulf war from newspaper articles and British artillery commanders. The advertisement is featured in Jane's Defence Weekly.

Bob Turvey, executive vice-president of the London-based company that markets the rocket system, makes no apologies for using war as a selling point while politicians are talking about the need to control arms sales.

"If you're trying to sell a piece of equipment, it's stupid to hide the facts. Not to talk about it because it kills people," he said in a telephone interview.

Such an approach is rare in the world of defence advertising, where lethal weapons are just another product, death a

taboo word and polite euphemisms essential.

"This is an area that's had a great deal of bad press and everyone is very sensitive about the language used," said Susan Parker, who manages advertising sales for Jane's.

But Mr. Turvey is scathing about companies which shy away from using the Gulf conflict to promote their arms on the grounds that such advertising might offend moral sensitivities.

"I suppose people who won't use war to sell arms are all pacifists," he said. "Funny business, the defence trade." The end of the cold war and eagerness to cash in the "peace dividend" had proved a major setback for the world of arms promotion and sales.

Industry executives say there is unlikely to be any major upturn in arms production or advertising as a result of the Gulf war. One, who asked to remain anonymous, said the six-week conflict "wasn't long enough or bloody enough to generate the need for more ammunition or equipment."

But the war saw many weapons, like the U.S. Patriot air defence missile, tested in combat for the first time. Many advertising industry executives expect a harder sell for high-technology arms, helicopters and other "success stories."

Flick through the latest

copies of any defence magazine and you can already see the signs.

A Swedish company has begun advertising its disposable suits for protection against chemical weapons.

A company spokesman said the decision to advertise had been partly prompted by Gulf war fears that Iraq might use such weapons and heightened awareness of the need for protection.

The U.S. makers of the Abrams M1A2 main battle tank, bidding to supply Britain with its next generation of heavy armour, have chosen a picture of their tank cruising through the desert.

"Recent history and political instability in regions throughout the world attest to the need for the continued evolution... of the world's main battle tank," runs the next accompanying advertisement.

From the U.S. aircraft engine makers Pratt & Whitney, this simple full-page message, signed with the company's logo: "To the men and women of Desert Storm: Mission accomplished. Bravo."

The latest advertisement from South Africa's Armscor for its 155-mm self-propelled Howitzer has pictures of a desert waste and a macho warning: "If your operational area could turn out to be sand, make sure you don't get it kicked in your face."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Children's programme
18:30	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	After Henry
21:10	Our House
22:00	News in English
22:20	Love and Hate

PRAYER TIMES

03:49	Fajr
05:09	(Sunrise) Duha
11:37	Dhuhr
15:12	'Asr
18:04	Maghrib
19:25	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish.	Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church.	Tel. 632783
St. Joseph Church Tel.	624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	637440
De la Salle Church Tel.	661757
Terrazana Church Tel.	622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	633941
Anglican Church Tel.	625383
628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.	771531
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.	773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel.	771751
Assuan International Church Tel.	685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.	811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel.	815817, 654932

The Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will remain under the effect of the cold front which affected the Kingdom in the past two days. Therefore, it will be cold, partly cloudy and rainy at times in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. In the southern and eastern parts, it will be dusty and partly cloudy. Winds will be westerly fresh, and in Amman, winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

Amman	Mid./max. temp. 8 / 15
Jordan Valley	12 / 22

Agaba Deserts 14 / 26 7 / 18

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Walid Al Masri	675485
Dr. Riaz Abu Zeln	(—)
Dr. Khalid Ma'addi	743500
Dr. Kayed Halayqa	793522
Firas Pharmacy	661912
Furqan pharmacy	773336
Al Asena pharmacy	677055
Natroukh pharmacy	625672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsani pharmacy	637660

AMMAN:	
Dr. Radwan Al Sa'ad	(—)

Al Sharaa' pharmacy (273825)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yazid bin Abdul Salam	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630221
Hotel Complaints	605800
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	(—)
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	661174
Complaints	787111

Telephone Information

(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	08-53200
Central Amman Telephone	010320
Repairs:	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Materanly J. Amn	643816
Atieh Materanly J. Amn	642442
Jabal Amman Materanly	623662
Malhar, J. Amman	636140
Safa, Amman	

Committee formed to make arrangements for pilgrims

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Kilani has formed a new committee to conduct an assessment of the performance of a national company which last year undertook the task of transporting pilgrims to and from Mecca and Medina and ensuring their accommodation there.

Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel met with the committee members Tuesday to discuss its agenda and said that the committee would be charged with contacting the concerned authorities in Saudi Arabia to make arrangements for the pilgrimage towards the end of June this year.

Dr. Hilayel said that there would be new arrangements with the contractors who can take charge of the transportation and lodging matters.

"The Arab and Islamic nations are going through very difficult stages in the wake of the Gulf war, the Arab ranks are in disarray and Arab people are suffering from deteriorating economic conditions," Dr. Hilayel said.

"The coming haj (holy pilgrimage to Mecca) should prompt every Arab and Muslim to contribute towards helping the Arabs

and Muslims overcome the present difficult situation," he added.

Dr. Hilayel voiced satisfaction with the close cooperation between the ministries of awqaf in Jordan and Saudi Arabia and underlined the need for all Arab and Islamic countries to open a new chapter in brotherly relations based on mutual respect to safeguard the higher national interests.

Last year, Jordanian company entrusted with the task of transporting pilgrims was reported in dispute with the Ministry of Awqaf over its performance, with the latter accusing the company of failing to honour the commitment and to provide airconditioned buses to transport the pilgrims.

Earlier, officials at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said that the Jordanian government had given the pilgrims clearance to perform the haj this year.

The haj is one of the five basic duties of Islam and should be performed by every Muslim at least once in his lifetime, if he has the means.

In the past years, Jordan was allowed to send up to 15,000

pilgrims to haj, but as the registration has not begun for the pilgrimage this year, there is no information as to the number of Muslims wishing to perform the pilgrimage this year.

Syrian and Turkish pilgrims normally travel to Mecca by land via Jordan and the minister of awqaf Tuesday chaired a meeting at his office to review preparations and facilities normally offered to these pilgrims at the pilgrims cities in Ramtha, Maan and other areas where they stay on their way to the holy places.

According to a statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister and a special committee supervising the passage of Turks through Jordan reviewed the various articles of an agreement between the religious authorities in Jordan and Turkey and were also briefed on the types of services offered to the Turkish pilgrims, like postal services, civil defence, and water supply.

Each of the Turkish pilgrims, according to Petra, has to produce a vaccination certificate against meningitis, issued not more than 10 days before entering Jordanian territory.

Youth to present gifts to Iraqis

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Youth Federation is sending a team on a visit to Iraq during the coming Eid Al Fitr holiday to present gifts to the Iraqis wounded in the bombing raids on Iraqi cities, according to an announcement by the federation President Seif Al Din Murad.

He told a press conference that the team would group representatives of 25 Jordanian youth clubs who raised donations and gifts to Iraqi war victims.

"The federation has decided to raise funds for the reconstruction of the milk factory in Baghdad, which was raided and destroyed by the allied forces during the Gulf war, or any other food processing plant which the Iraqi government plans to set up in the course of the reconstruction process of the country," said Mr. Murad who just returned from a visit to Baghdad along with youth and student groups from Jordan and other Arab countries.

Mr. Murad, who is also a Member of Parliament, said the groups met with Iraqi officials and groups representing Iraqi youth organisations to discuss the consequences of the war and the Iraqi people's needs of assistance.

At the press conference, a general federation statement was read out revealing that the youth of the Arab World have set up a special fund for supporting the steadfastness of the Iraqi people.

The fund, to be based in Amman with branches in various Arab states, will be operating under the supervision of various youth organisations which support Iraq.

Horse jumping competition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Organising Committee of the Arabian Horse Club will hold show jumping competitions on Thursday at the Arabian Horse Club's closed arena.

Events of Thursday's competitions will include many daring and interesting showjumping and games. Gymkana for children. Elementary class jumping at height of 60 centimetres maximum. Novice class jumping at height of 90 centimetres maximum. National Jordanian class at height of 1.10 metres maximum. Two fence challenge competition. This will be the highlight of all competitions. Two fences will keep getting higher every time riders jump them clear.

Thursday's events will be held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al-Hussein.

Trust unveils plan to safeguard Petra's natural, cultural treasures

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Petra National Trust, an organisation dedicated to preserving the rich heritage, natural beauty and quality of life of the people of the Petra region in south Jordan, held its first public meeting in Amman Tuesday to review a proposed Petra Region Development Plan drawn up by architecture students and staff from the University of Jordan.

Petra National Trust President Prince Raad Ben Zeid pledged that the trust would "exert the same effort today to preserve the human and natural heritage of Petra as the Nabateans exerted in creating it 2,000 years ago."

The long-term development plan unveiled Tuesday was drawn up by University of Jordan fourth year architecture students and their professors who have worked on it for the past nine months. The plan was requested and funded by the Petra National Trust.

Prince Raad thanked the university students and staff for their hard work, noting that "this development plan is noteworthy for its realistic quality work, and because it was drawn up by Jordanians who know the region and its people and who are sensitive to the particular cultural environment and human and economic needs of the country."

Tuesday's meeting was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, patron and honorary chairperson of the trust, as well as by members of the trust's Board of Directors, the mayor and members of the municipal council of Wadi Musa, officials from Ma'an Governorate and concerned national ministries in Amman, and staff and students from the University of Jordan.

The Petra Region Development Plan aims at assuring that long-term municipal and tourism expansion can take place in and around Petra without destroying the special cultural fabric of the area or encroaching upon its unique antiquities or natural environment.

It comprises proposals for land use, zoning, environmental protection, expansion of commercial and residential areas, transport, municipal services, tourism facilities, cultural activities and archaeological preservation requirements.

Prince Raad expressed hope that all concerned public and private sector bodies in the country would carefully study the plan and then closely coordinate their future activities in the Petra region.

The Petra National Trust (PNT) was established 18 months ago by a group of concerned

Jordanians in order to bring together people in Jordan and abroad who share a deep appreciation of the natural beauty and cultural wealth of the Petra region — and who are committed to a collective international effort to safeguard its unique physical and human heritage.

The PNT has worked quietly since its inception in 1989. This autumn it plans to launch an international fund-raising campaign to endow it with a trust fund to finance long-term efforts, including excavations, conservation, preservation, publications, tourism development and promotion, museum displays and exhibitions, information dissemination, and cultural and human development activities.

Prince Raad noted that "just as Petra was the result of sustained and constructive interaction among the great civilisations of the ancient world, an international effort is required today to protect and preserve Petra, and to assure its physical safeguarding for the enjoyment, scholarship and pride of future generations."

He noted the need for urgent action because the delicate environmental balance in the Petra region is extremely vulnerable to pressures from the brisk increase in tourism and the natural expansion of Wadi Musa village and

other nearby settlements, such as Beidha.

Within a few years, Petra expects to receive over 200,000 tourists a year, with over 2,000 people entering the ancient city every day during the spring and autumn high seasons.

The PNT will not implement projects itself, but will act as a coordination, research, promotion and funding body. Membership in the Petra National Trust is open to individuals and institutions from any country. The annual membership fee for individuals is JD 20 in Jordan, or \$25 abroad.

The trust's officers include: Suha Shoman and Dr. Raouf Ahe Jaber (vice presidents), Karen Asfour (secretary) and Rami Khouri (treasurer).

The rest of the members of the founding board are Her Highness Princess Majda Raad Ben Zeid, Widad Kassar, Ali Jabri, Fawzi Zayadine, Nusr Atalla (ex officio, Tourism Ministry) and Ghazi Bisheh (ex officio, Department of Antiquities).

The Petra National Trust is an independent, non-profit-making, charitable society, which accepts tax-deductible donations according to Jordanian law.

Paper plant to expand production

AMMAN (J.T.) — In view of the growing demand for paper and cardboard for different industries, the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Company (JPCFCO) has decided to open a new production line in July this year to produce a new type of reinforced cardboard with a production capacity three times higher than the present carton production line, according to company Director General Abdul Nour Habaibeh.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the total cost of the new production line, including the premises, installations and other facilities, amounts to JD 5 million.

The company last year produced 23,000 tonnes of paper and cardboard, of different forms and types, sold in Jordan and on Arab markets for a total of JD 8.5 million, up from JD 7.8 million in 1989, Dr. Habaibeh said.

He said that nearly 41.9 per cent of the total sales went for export, earning Jordan badly needed hard currency.

Paper and cardboard is being used in increasing quantities in the fields of agriculture, industry and education (schools, universi-

ties) as well as for office work, newspaper and book printing, according to Dr. Habaibeh.

Dr. Habaibeh, who estimates Jordan's total consumption of paper and cardboard at JD 50 million annually, said that the Kingdom imported JD 25 million worth of paper and cardboard from other countries while the rest was provided by the local company.

"Jordan's consumption of paper and cardboard by the end of the century is expected to rise to JD 110 million and, therefore, there is urgent need for expansion in this industry to meet the growing needs," Dr. Habaibeh pointed out.

The JPCFCO's total capital now stands at JD 3 million, up from JD 1.5 million when the company was founded in 1973, but the company's assets and investments are estimated now at JD 10 million, Dr. Habaibeh said.

He said that the company operated two separate plants. One to produce different types of paper at the rate of 10,000 tonnes annually, while the other for producing cardboard at the rate of 13,000 tonnes a year.

The company, which employs

300 workers and engineers, saves the country up to \$20 million worth of cardboard and paper, according to Dr. Habaibeh.

He said that refuse paper is being collected and recycled to produce further quantities of paper and cardboard used in various industries.

Dr. Habaibeh said that the company planned to start producing carton boxes for various uses by 1992, and has drawn up plans for increasing paper and cardboard production in a manner that would boost its sales by 70 per cent.

Furthermore, the company has contacted the ministries of finance, agriculture, water and irrigation as well as the Department of Lands and Survey with the aim of carrying out an agricultural project designed to provide the company with material to manufacture paper. Dr. Habaibeh pointed out.

He said that the project entailed planting large areas with special types of trees, forming an artificial forest whose timber can be made into paper and cardboard.

The initial feasibility studies conducted in this field, Dr. Habaibeh said, were encouraging and there will be a joint meeting by investors from the public and private sectors soon for another examination of the project, which, he said, would save the country a fortune.

Housing Corporation to merge with UDD

AMMAN (J.T.) — Parliament's extraordinary session, expected in the summer, will review a draft law on the merger of the Housing Corporation with the Urban Development Department (UDD), according to corporation Director Yousef Hiyasat.

The decision to merge the two departments, he said, came as a recommendation in 1985 by a national population strategy committee, which had conducted field studies and research work on the work of each department, and will be in implementation of the 1988 strategy endorsed by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

"A merger of the two departments is designed to organise the housing sector and to work out new housing programme that would give due attention to the needs of limited-income groups," Mr. Hiyasat said in a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

"Indeed, the move would reduce administrative cost and pool the two departments' resources in a manner that would offer better performance," Mr. Hiyasat added.

Once the merger has taken place, he said, the ensuring department would be known by the name of the General Organisation for Housing and Urban Development, which, he said, would be entrusted with all matters related to the implementation of the national population strategy in the Kingdom.

The Housing Corporation is now run as an important arm of the Ministry of Public Works, but before 1989 it used to be under the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Minister urges private sector to support tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism's 1991 budget is barely JD 500,000, which is mostly spent as salaries and pressing services for resthouses and advertising booklets, and the private sector is called on to contribute towards boosting the tourism industry in the country, according to Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Daoud Khalaf.

Speaking in an interview on Jordan Television, the minister said that the private sector was being helped by the ministry to carry out projects and he would want the private sector to set up tourist villages and other facilities to encourage tourism.

"What is also needed is joint efforts to help protect archaeological sites and prevent robberies of antiquities, as happened in the

past few years," the minister said.

Indeed, he said, it should be a national effort for everyone to try to boost the tourism industry which earns the country 18 per cent of its foreign currency.

Mr. Khalaf said that the government built resthouses, offered exemptions and facilities as well as land for the private sector companies to invest in tourism projects, and it wanted the private companies to provide the capital for such important and lucrative investments.

Interviewed on the same television programme, George Bawab, a tourist agent, echoed the minister's views about the importance of boosting the tourism industry and said that each foreign tourist spent \$100 in Jordan. "This is, of course, in addition to the air fare

paid to Royal Jordanian (RJ) which is also a great contributor to the tourism industry," Mr. Bawab said.

Another agent, Sami Sawalha, said that the private and public sectors had been cooperating in this field by inviting tour operators, writers and journalists for visits to Jordan and both had been attending conferences, exhibitions in London and Berlin to encourage tourists to come to Jordan.

He said that displaying traditional handicrafts and holding exhibitions, which the government is encouraging in Amman and in foreign countries, were a great help too. He said that work was under way for holding a tourism exhibition in Tunis in two months' time to display artifacts

and other items that can encourage tourists to come to the country.

Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Nusr Atallah said last month that his office was launching a large scale campaign in Jordan and abroad in a bid to revive the tourism industry in the Kingdom, now that the Gulf war has ended, and that airlines were operating normally again.

Mr. Atallah said that immediate plans were being worked out entailing programmes to attract tourist groups from Europe, especially from Germany, Spain and Scandinavian countries.

Mr. Atallah estimated Jordan's losses in tourism, during the crisis, at \$250,000 million, but he said plans under way were bound to help revive the industry.

Dissidents

(Continued from page 1)

PLO Executive Committee. Mr. Nashash said the dialogue should draw up a political and organisational plan for the PLO that would support the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"There are attempts to crush the uprising and we should unify our ranks to foil these plans."

The new Palestinian leadership should work to ensure imple-

mentation of United Nations resolutions regarding the Palestinian problem, Mr. Nashash said. "These resolutions should be applied to Israel as they were applied to Iraq when it occupied Kuwait."

"There are Arab lands occupied by Israel and there are resolutions demanding Israeli withdrawal from these territories. All we want is implementation of U.N. resolutions. We wish this could be done through peaceful means," he said.

Georgia

(Continued from page 1)

situational. Mr. Gorbachev Tuesday called for the ban on rallies and "other political actions that might destabilise the political situation in the country," warning through a spokesman of the threat of economic collapse.

The Soviet leader also proposed a series of emergency steps to prevent the destabilisation of

the country. Presidential spokesman Vitly Ignatenko said Mr. Gorbachev announced the "anti-crisis" measures at a meeting of the federation council called to discuss the outcome of a national referendum March 17 on preserving the union.

"We face the danger of economic collapse, with all the consequences," Mr. Ignatenko quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying. "The danger is real."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour Ministry plans campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour has made plans for large scale campaigns in Ruweished, Hassa and the Amman central market place to ensure that no non-Jordanian workers are employed in these areas without valid work permits. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi during which requests for the employment of 135 workers were turned down and 94 granted.

Amman municipality to attend meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality will take part in a meeting of the Permanent Bureau of the Arab and Islamic Cities and Capitals Organisation which will be held in Rabat on April 19. This was a decision taken by Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat at a municipal council meeting held Tuesday.

Tafleeh agriculture badly hit by storm

TAFLEH (Petra) — A report on the damages caused by the recent storms in Tafleeh Governorate revealed that large scale damage mainly affected the agricultural sector. A report, prepared by a committee which toured the various areas, said that 90 per cent of the water springs had been totally destroyed, and most of the irrigation canals and fruit trees were swept away while large numbers of sheep and poultry were lost.

Some Iraqi universities reopen

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Higher Education said Tuesday that various Iraqi universities would reopen for studies on April 20, 1991, according to cable received from the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad. The ministry called on Jordanian students wishing to continue studies in Iraq to call at the Jordanian cultural attache at the embassy in Baghdad as soon as they arrive in the Iraqi capital for further instructions.

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Beyond talk

IN HIS book "The Jewish Paradox," Nahum Godmann, quoted the late Israeli prime minister David Ben Gurion as telling him (in 1956): "I don't understand your optimism. Why should the Arabs make peace? If I was an Arab leader I would never make terms with Israel. That is natural: We have taken their country." In the 35 years since that conversation, much change has taken place in the political landscape of the Middle East, the most prominent of which is probably the metamorphosis in Arab thinking on the question of Israel's existence and acceptance in this region. Today it is not so much an issue of the Arabs not recognising Israel and not wanting to make peace with it as it is indeed the other way round. It is now a question of whether the Israelis themselves are willing and ready to make peace with the Arabs.

For clarity's sake, we will try not to obfuscate the real issue here, not to confuse Israel's desire to establish normal ties with the Arab countries with its concurrent intransigence on Palestinian rights. The Jewish state, in other words, wants to have its cake and eat it too. Israelis want to gain everything in return for giving up nothing. Which brings us back to Ben Gurion's historic admission that Israel took Palestine away from the Palestinians and his successors' insistence on not accommodating the dispossessed and stateless people in their own country and homeland.

This is in fact the biggest problem that lies at the heart of each and every peace proposal that aims at solving the so-called Middle East conflict. Whether it is the international peace conference, or the two-track approach or the regional meeting to which Israel and the U.S. yesterday agreed, the problem is Palestine — the land and its people — first and foremost. Whatever ideas are touted, proposals advanced, steps taken, the issue that has to be settled is in the final analysis the kind of accommodation that will take place between Israelis and Palestinians on that piece of land. All Arab countries, and the rest of the world, save for Israel, agree that only the Palestinians can decide their future, otherwise known as Palestinian self-determination, and only they can sign away half of their territory to the Israelis and live with them in peace ever after. The rest of the Arabs cannot and will not do this for or on behalf of the Palestinians. The Arab World will help, support and bless any accord between the two peoples, but it will not be a substitute for the people of Palestine, under any form or banner.

The Israelis are stupid not to realise this, even though they know it and do everything possible to avoid it. In the immediate future at least, it is incumbent on their friends and financiers in Washington to instill that sense of realism in Israeli minds, something which is desperately needed for any progress and eventual solution. Short of such depth, all this talk about confidence and tracks and meetings will remain just that: talk.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

UNITED Nations Security Council Resolution 687 is the latest U.S.-Zionist ploy to impose humiliation on the Arab Nation rather than the Iraqi leadership and people: and it won't be long before the colonial powers would turn their attention to another Arab country, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. We will be deceived as a nation if we consider this unjust resolution as directed against Iraq and its president, and we will be naive should we regard its terms as designed to impose domination and subjugation over the Iraqi people alone, the paper noted. It said that the resolutions of the Security Council have all been worked out in a manner to deprive the Arabs of any power and they offer the Zionists a service that would enable them to consolidate their hold on Arab land in Palestine and other areas of the Arab World. The latest resolution, which was sponsored by the United States, is yet one more rope being tightened around our necks strangling us all and keeping Israel as strong as ever and acting as a forward military bastion for the West, the paper continued. The paper bitterly criticised the Soviet Union and China whose leaders have been bragging about their support for the struggles of people around the world against colonial powers while allowing these powers to exterminate the Arab people of Iraq. Indeed, the paper added, the latest Security Council resolution paves the way for further atrocities by the colonial powers which would not spare any Arab country from aggression.

A columnist in Al Dustour daily calls on investors to turn their attention to food processing and dairy industries not only because such venture is lucrative, but also because it saves the country a good deal of foreign currency. Mohammad Daoud says that Jordan has no need to purchase dairy products worth more than JD 22 million annually, when it has a surplus of milk sufficing the local needs and the dairy industry and a great deal more. Jordan also purchases more than JD 4.5 million worth of juice, pickles and processed vegetables each year, at a time when its people can process the extra vegetable and fruits many of which can not be marketed or exported, the writer notes. If the public sector is still hesitant about venturing into this field, Daoud argues, the public sector represented by the ministries of industry and trade and supply can and should lead the way and embark on this business which can save the country a good deal of foreign exchange needed for more vital projects. The writer says since the closure of the Gulf markets before Jordanian products, the country has been left with a huge surplus of agricultural products which, if processed, can be of use in the Kingdoms markets and could possibly be exported to other, far distant countries, earning the country much of the hard currency it badly needs. He calls on the private and public sectors to cooperate and help the national economy at this time of need.

Economic Forum

Wanted: Modern tax policy

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

ONE SHOULD not get tired of talking and writing about the requisites and challenges of the post-war era in the Middle East. There is a vague feeling that a new Mideastern order is in the making, but no certainty as to what it is going to be like. However, democracy and economic freedom seem to be the names of the game. New economic and political strategies will have to be worked out and the successful identification of the appropriate strategies needs the participation of as many parties as possible.

Some countries will need to undertake profound and probably painful political reform such as the Gulf states which additionally will be well advised to reform their economic systems so as to make their public finances a little bit dependent on tax revenues because tax-paying is a genuine characteristic feature of the modern state. Other countries need both economic and political reforms. Jordan is advised to reinforce its democratisation process and introduce certain changes to its basically free economic system as to make it more open and truly liberal.

The Jordanian monetary policy seems to be on the right track. The exchange rate of the dinar is being stabilised after the catastrophe of devaluation and the foreign exchange reserves are being built up in a way that has fortunately permitted us the

luxury of relaxing some of our foreign exchange controls. Most importantly, the monetary policy of the Central Bank has deservedly won the confidence of the public, which can serve as a basis for more spectacular achievements.

The commercial policy seems to have made up its mind. What we have now is a free foreign trade policy that does not envisage higher, ban or quantitative restrictions on imports and exports, together with the freedom to set up domestic enterprises. True this liberalisation was a part of our commitment under Jordan's accord with the International Monetary Fund but it is there anyway and is now needed to project Jordan as a country of a free and open economic system hereafter.

The bottleneck seems to reside in our fiscal policy which we believe is still embracing some outdated notions relating specifically to the tax policy.

First, the levying of taxes, direct and indirect, has been proceeding without giving due regard to the taxable capacity. The tax effort in Jordan is extraordinarily high by all standards, including the academic standards of IMF itself. This means that Jordanian individuals and businesses are overtaxed. Overtaxation forces tax evasion and seeds mistrust between the public and the government.

Second, during the last two years the fiscal policy has been

gearing up to rely more and more on the income tax, not through the broadening of the tax base but via higher tax rates. This policy is thus a victim of the destructive illusion that public revenues can be increased simply by raising tax rates. The experience of the last one or two decades suggests that the contrary is true. High income tax rates induce more tax evasion and they particularly serve to undermine the production incentives and thereby narrow the tax base and thus depress tax proceeds in the final analysis. Hence the widespread practice of cutting income tax rates across the world during the eighties.

Income tax revenues have averaged around 3% of national income. An across-the-board unitary and very low income tax rate of 5 per cent will yield more revenues and, additionally, be very acceptable to tax-payers. (Tax progressiveness can be satisfied by varying this rate from 3 per cent to say 6 per cent or 7 per cent. Such a low rate will therefore be in the better interest of the Treasury, encourage production and thus indirectly bring in additional public revenues. Above all, it will change Jordan into a tax haven which fits neatly in the picture of Jordan as having a free and open economy that we need so as to enable us to respond to the challenges and requirements of the new era which is dawning on the Middle East.

NGOs tread carefully on the rocky road to Rio

By Daniel Nelson

PEOPLE everywhere "look to 1992 as our best chance, perhaps our last chance, to save our Earth," according to Mostafa Tolba, head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Such absurdly overblown rhetoric about next year's U.N. conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) could come only from within the U.N. itself. For few people outside the world body are aware of the June 1992 conference in Rio de Janeiro; and if they are, they regard it as just another huge U.N. talking shop.

It is already being billed as the Earth Summit, because so many heads of state and government have indicated an interest in attending.

They will all declare their "greenness", but their presence will make the event even more of a jamboree than is already likely for an occasion at which 30,000 people might be present.

As Joseph Wheeler, No. 2 in the conference secretariat in Geneva, points out: "As is the case with other big conferences, not a great deal is done at the conference itself. It's all done in advance."

For UNCED "in advance" means now. One preparatory meeting has been held and three more will take place before the conference carnival reaches Rio.

The secretariat has already decided that the conference will produce an earth charter (a declaration of principles) and "Agenda 21" (a programme for the international community). Conference secretary-general Maurice Strong, who was the UNEP's first executive Director, also wants conventions on atmospheric protection and biodiversity, and perhaps on forests, to be signed in Rio, though not negotiated by the conference.

The declared aim of the meeting is "to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation" while increasing efforts "to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries." It sounds uncontroversial. But the political battle lines are already being drawn.

The key debate is whether environment or development will get the upper hand.

Developing countries tend to feel that the conference is in danger of being about the environmental concerns of the North rather than the development needs of the South. This is an echo of the 1972 Stockholm conference on the environment — another mega-meeting, which put environment on the international map and at which the attitude of many in the Third World was that talk of pollution was a luxury indulged in by rich countries.

"Some people on the development side have been disappointed that there has been too much emphasis on environment in the preparations for UNCED," notes Wheeler.

He admits that until now attention has been focussed on

specific problems such as air pollution and toxic chemicals and that "now we are to place emphasis on cross-cutting issues" — UNCED-speakers for matters such as who will pay for any new environmental measures and whether slowing down population growth in poor countries is more important than cutting the consumption of the rich.

Other conference conflicts, according to Richard Sandbrook of the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), include:

— A North-South division over climate issues — specifically, how much money will the industrialised countries offer in order to get developing countries to the negotiating table to discuss controls on atmospheric pollutants for which poor countries feel they are only marginally responsible?

— Serious disagreements over what the conference is empowered to talk about. The U.S. and other leading industrialised countries prefer to discuss topics which affect their interests in small groups under their control rather than in large U.N. gatherings.

— Rivalry between U.N. agencies, which are keen to get a share of any new money ("additionality" in conference jargon) which may arise from negotiations.

— Sandbrook also warns that the conference poses a problem for non-government organisation (NGOs), whose activities and lobbying in the last decade have done so much to shake the paternalistic, undemocratic, technical-fix approach of national governments and the U.N. on development and environment issues.

There was hope that NGOs would have a role through participation in the national environment and development reports which all governments have been asked to submit by July.

The report idea, however, was poorly thought out by the secretariat. Many governments do not have the capacity to produce such a report. Others are taking existing documents off the shelf, sticking on a new title and submitting them. And many governments simply do not like dealing with NGOs.

Says Koy Thomson of IIED: "Such half-heartedness towards national reports, and the near-impossible deadline set by the secretariat, will be a crushing disappointment for those NGOs who saw the reports as both the key to widespread national participation and consultation on issues concerning environment and development, and as the foundation of the conference itself. "It's a major missed opportunity."

Failure to integrate NGOs into the conference raises the danger that the event will be a safe government-to-government get-together steering clear of political controversies and choices — PANOS features.

From occupation to lawless vengeance in Kuwait

By Andrew Whitely

NEW YORK — The accounts of abductions, of beatings and humiliation, sometimes of unspeakable torture were depressingly familiar. The treatment meted out to Palestinians and other foreign residents of Kuwait mirrored that suffered by native Kuwaitis at the hands of Iraqis in the seven-month occupation.

During an 18-day mission to Kuwait, Middle East Watch concluded that about 2,000 people had been rounded up arbitrarily since the country's liberation on Feb. 26. Dozens were killed by their Kuwaiti captors, their mutilated bodies dumped on waste piles and beside highways for all to see. Others were deported to Iraq, pushed across the U.S.-controlled border without shoes or documents.

Such tales are not unfamiliar in countries suffering from the aftermath of invasion and civil strife. But in this case abuses occur in a country that owes its regained independence entirely to America and its allies.

Today, according to an authoritative Pentagon document in the possession of Middle East Watch,

U.S. civil affairs officers in Kuwait are responsible for the maintenance of public security and the prevention of human rights violations. Testimony to my organisation and to the International Red Cross by released detainees puts U.S. officers in places of detention in Kuwait where torture has taken place.

This is not to say that Americans are participating in torture. Diplomats say that when American personnel are present, their role has been "to restrain" abuses. But this acknowledgment shows that the Pentagon and the State Department know much more about what is going on than they are letting on.

It may be that the Bush administration is embarrassed by the Kuwaitis' behaviour. It certainly should be. What is inexplicable is its silence in the face of widespread abuses taking place under the noses of U.S. troops.

Interviews with more than 100 people who were detained and released revealed that those responsible for their mistreatment in "safe houses", schools and police stations often wore

Kuwaiti army uniforms. Witnesses described how soldiers dropped bodies off in Palestinian neighbourhoods at night.

Kuwait claims that the authorities are not involved, and that no harm will come to anyone who did not commit a crime, lack credibility.

While vigilante gangs continue to prowl the streets looking for suspected collaborators, the reign of terror seems increasingly orchestrated. Many of those incarcerated without charges are thought to be held inside brigade headquarters or in the military hospital and prison complex where the Kuwaiti high command is temporarily housed.

Western diplomats have identified seven scions of the ruling Sabah family as among the chief culprits.

What is remarkable is how little shame or unease native Kuwaitis feel about what is going on. They are shell-shocked from their own torment by the Iraqi secret police, and their common reaction is "They had it coming to them."

By "they," Kuwaitis mean not

just the 150,000 Palestinians who remain, out of a long-established community of 350,000, but also Sudanese and Somali workers who are paying the price of their governments' support for Saddam Hussein. Some undoubtedly did collaborate. But that is no excuse for collective punishment or indiscriminate reprisals.

The Sabahs seem to have forgotten that their restoration owed much to a global consensus that the rule of law had to be upheld.

The excuse that can be made for the Kuwaiti government's failure to exert its authority and put a stop to this revenge is that there has been no government to speak of.

Until now, what semblance of officialdom there has been has carried little authority. Military discipline has been reduced to moral suasion. Most frightening is that much of the population — Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti — is armed and shows little inclination to give up weapons.

The writer is executive director of Middle East Watch. This article is reprinted from the New York Times.

Enclave

(Continued from page 1)

objectives behind it," Dr. Hammadi told Independent Television News in Baghdad.

"We think this is the next phase of the American campaign against this country. The military campaign was phase one and this is phase two," he said.

"The proposal to set up a zone under United Nations supervision inside Iraq to deal with the so-called refugee problem is a suspicious proposal that Iraq categorically rejects and will resist it with all means," Dr. Hammadi told INA.

"Creating and inflating this problem is deliberate and is a link in the chain of plots against Iraq's sovereignty," he said.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees says about 400,000 Kurds have crossed into Turkey. Iran says over 800,000 are inside its frontier.

Dr. Hammadi said Iran and Turkey, by taking in the refugees, were "complicating measures taken by the concerned authorities in solving this problem in a quick and normal manner."

"Interference in internal affairs is a two-edged sword," he said, without specifying what action Baghdad would take.

"What has happened in northern Iraq is the infiltration of gangs of Kurdish rebels from Syria and Turkey at the same time and with the encouragement and direction of the American intelligence agency (the CIA)," Mr. Hammadi said.

He said Britain, which proposed the enclave, was "known for adopting proposals aimed at dividing countries and peoples."

"Lifting the sanctions is the measure that will enable the country to provide more services and meet the basic needs of the people, and not by giving false promises and statements from America and the Western countries," Dr. Hammadi said.

Iraq's U.N. ambassador said Monday that the notion of establishing a U.N.-protected safety zone for Kurds in northern Iraq is a "wild idea" and impractical. Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari said: "I don't think it is a practical idea. I think it is a wild idea, it is not well thought out."

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said camps in Iraq "would raise the problem of sovereignty and I don't know if we can impose on Iraq a special

area. That would be complicated."

International support continued to grow on Tuesday for the enclave proposed by British Prime Minister John Major. The plan was endorsed Monday by the European Community.

Turkey and Australia also have endorsed the idea, which was to be discussed Tuesday by the U.N. Security Council.

British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg told British radio Tuesday that the idea "might imply the prospect of some force or threat of force if the (Iraqi) attacks continue."

Masoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), termed the plan "a big humanitarian and political step forward" and said the rebels would accept a ceasefire if an enclave is established.

Mr. Barzani said the rebels "support this proposal and urge all states to back it and implement it as soon as possible." We spoke to reporters at a temporary headquarters in the rebel-held mountains.

The Iraqi government sent a letter to the United Nations saying aid should be distributed through Iraqi channels.

INA quoted the letter as saying that after destroying Iraq's infrastructure with bombs in the Gulf war, U.S.-led forces were now "dropping crumbs of food and blankets in a pretentious operation that has no humanitarian aspects whatsoever."

INA said a memorandum was sent to the United Nations detailing the capture of 56 Iranian soldiers who had infiltrated into Iraq's Diyala province.

It also said captured documents showed that twice in early March Iranian soldiers infiltrated to instigate riots in the areas of Basra, Amara, Nasiriyah and Khanaqin.

In a letter to the Security Council, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein blamed the allied coalition for the predicament of the Kurds and the entire population.

"The affliction suffered by the Iraqi people is due to the destruction of the amenities of daily life as part of the savage annihilation wrought by the forces of the United States and its allies."

"What this people now needs is the immediate removal of the economic embargo imposed on it, not the dropping of crumbs of food and blankets in an ostentatious operation that has nothing humanitarian about it," Mr. Hus-

sein said.

"Iraq strongly protests against this American and British action which infringes the sovereignty of Iraq in a shameful violation of the principles of international law and constitutes direct interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, inasmuch as this is not taking place through the Iraqi authorities and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society," he said.

"If the offer of aid genuinely stemmed from good intentions and humanitarian goals, it would have been possible to deliver the alleged relief supplies to Iraq directly or through Jordan or Turkey, rather than violating Iraq's sovereignty," he said.

Conference

(Continued from page 1)

negotiations.

"If we have such a meeting, Palestinians have to be part of such a meeting," he said.

Mr. Baker raised with Palestinians the question of how they would be represented in peace talks. The official said they responded with a long list of "probing questions" but did not reject the idea out of hand.

The idea of a regional conference arose last month, with the United States saying the gathering should be preceded by simultaneous goodwill gestures from Israel and Arab states.

Mr. Baker welcomed Israel's announcement on Monday that it was freeing 1,000 Palestinian prisoners and said he would discuss the move with Arab leaders.

Palestinians fear a regional conference will advance peace with Arab states while leaving their issue unresolved. But Israel, anxious to broaden its acceptance by Arab states, likes the idea.

Mr. Levy gave an upbeat of his talks with Mr. Baker, saying they had reached understandings that could provide the "cornerstone" of a new peace process.

"The United States believes it is possible to convene a meeting of Arab states with Israel to talk peace," Mr. Levy said.

Israeli right-wingers, including senior government ministers, meanwhile voiced "outrage" at Defence Minister Moshe Arens's plan to free 1,000 Palestinian prisoners next week.

"Whoever releases prisoners without making it conditional on an end to terrorism is making a grave mistake," hawkish Housing Minister Ariel Sharon told the

Jerusalem Post newspaper.

"The defence ministry, announcing the release Tuesday, said it was a traditional goodwill gesture to Palestinians to mark Eid Al Fitr."

Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

the U.N. Security Council, with Israel, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians, could work.

Al Ahram, which the government of President Hosni Mubarak often uses for making policy statements, said Egypt still views an international peace conference to be the proper political framework for settling the Arab-Israeli problem.

Mr. Mubarak is currently on a visit to Tripoli for talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Outlining Egypt's policy, Al Ahram also said that exchanging land for peace constitutes a basic principle for moving towards a just and comprehensive settlement.

Consultations

President Mubarak met Tuesday with Syria's foreign minister Tuesday, then flew off to Libya to talk with Libyan leader Qadhafi, the government announced.

An official said Mr. Mubarak planned to return Tuesday night to prepare for talks Wednesday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Baker is to spend Wednesday night in Cairo and meet on Thursday with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal.

Reasons for Mr. Mubarak's surprise trip to Libya were not disclosed.

Earlier Tuesday, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa of Syria gave the Egyptian president a message from President Assad.

"This is within the framework of consultations and exchanging points of view between our countries," Mr. Sharaa said at Cairo international airport, where his Egyptian counterpart Esmat Abdul Meguid met him.

Asked whether his trip was to coordinate for Mr. Baker's visit, Mr. Sharaa said his discussions with Mr. Mubarak would deal with all recent developments in the region.

Shortly after the meeting, Mr. Sharaa returned home. Then Mr. Mubarak, accompanied by Mr. Abdul Meguid and Osama Al Baz, the president's chief political adviser, flew to Libya.

U.S. congress reluctant to let China off human rights hook

WASHINGTON (AP) — The international indignation at China's crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square two years ago has largely faded. But lingering anger in the U.S. Congress is causing unease in the White House.

President George Bush's administration prizes its relationship with Peking for strategic reasons and is anxious to avoid a disruption in ties. But in Congress, there is strong sentiment that China's trade benefits should be revoked unless its record on human rights improves.

The administration's differences with China's congressional critics are expected to come into sharp focus next week when the leadership of both congressional houses plans to give an enthusiastic welcome to the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet.

The Dalai Lama maintains that Tibet has been victimised by a Chinese occupation for 40 years and advocates a system of autonomy for his homeland.

In deference to China, U.S. officials do not plan to receive the Dalai Lama.

Also worrisome is the possible Chinese sale to Pakistan of new missiles that may be capable of carrying nuclear and chemical warheads. U.S. officials said Friday they are trying to head off the sale of the missiles, which have a range of 200 to 400 miles (320 to 640 kilometres).

The missiles are in the research and development stage. If they eventually are delivered to Pakistan, the administration would be obliged under congressional direction to impose sanctions on China.

U.S. officials hope the U.S.-China relationship can ride out the challenges these and other issues pose.

But Kenneth G. Lieberthal, a China scholar at the University of Michigan, says, "there is good reason to be concerned about the potential deterioration in the coming months."

During a visit to China late last month, Republican Congressmen Frank Wolf and Chris Smith served notice on Premier Li Peng that Congress may revoke the country's preferential trade status.

They presented a petition to Li seeking the release of 77 people imprisoned or under house arrest because of their religious activities. They also protested China's use of mandatory birth control and forced abortions to limit population growth.

Wolf said the congressmen tried to meet with 40 Tiananmen Square inmates at a Peking prison but were denied permission. Wolf also called attention to allegations that products made under forced labour conditions in China are being exported to the United States in violation of U.S. law.

The House voted by a large margin last year to halt U.S. trade preferences for China, but the measure died when Congress adjourned without action by the other chamber of Congress — the Senate.

China has taken advantage of the relatively open American market, building up a \$10.4-billion trade surplus with the United States last year, up from \$6.2 billion in 1989. According to some estimates, the surplus may reach \$15 billion this year, another sore point with lawmakers who attribute the imbalance to increasing Chinese import restrictions.

But U.S. officials worry that a loss of trade preferences could harm the Chinese economy.

"I agree with the Chinese that it's a human right to have a job and to eat," said one administration official, disagreeing with lawmakers who believe China should be punished.

Bush is expected to extend trade preferences for China in early June. Congress could overturn the decision if both houses act within 30 days.

The administration view is that congressional retaliation against China could be counterproductive. Officials point out that China has been unusually cooperative lately in United Nations Security Council deliberations on the Gulf.

Quriquera — a community awaiting God's help

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

WADI ARABA — "For God's sake, we need help and soon," said an elderly man who has lived in the village of Quriquera all of his life.

When he said this, the man was echoing the feelings of the three thousand inhabitants living in Quriquera, a desolate string of scattered primitive houses (which will be referred to as "village") in the area of Fadan, in Wadi Araba, 150 kilometres north of Aqaba.

This "village," lost in the middle of the barren desert, has been cut off from any form of civilisation leaving the inhabitants without electricity, water, or transportation. Heading south on the Ghor Al Safi-Aqaba road, a dirt road leads to the "village." There are mud houses and some farm land, but the rest is flat desert. There are only hills on the horizon.

The visitors are welcomed by the inhabitants inside a large black tent. The visitors are shocked by this almost "barbarian," rudimentary environment — no furniture, no road, no water, foul stench and sticky flies. However, the locals insist these are good conditions compared to what was seen later.

A middle aged man, Mag Zidan, said that people in this area were divided into three groups. The first group consists of what is considered as the high ranking families, whose men have served in the armed forces, obtained a loan from the Housing Bank and built a house. "This five per cent of the population

now lives in 'comfortable' mud houses," Zidan said.

The lives of the second group depend on cattle raising. "These people live in desperate conditions because to raise cattle they need a lot of money which is not available," according to Zidan. These people, around 10 per cent of the population, live in tents.

'The visitors are shocked by this almost 'barbarian,' rudimentary environment — no furniture, no road, no water, foul stench and sticky flies. However, the locals insist these are good conditions compared to what was seen later.'

Those living well below the poverty line have nothing at all, save the caves or tree houses in which they live. They are considered the third group, living in the highest degree of wretchedness, isolated deep in the "village."

Among these groups, the people are split into three tribes: The Al Azameh, Al Saadeen and the Ammareen tribes, distributed across an area of 60 square kilometres.

Once the visitors enter the "village," the dirt road disappears into the brown coloured earth and there is nothing but infinite land. The area lacks water in general. "We have some water wells but they are dirty and can cause malaria and other sorts of water borne diseases," a group of middle aged men told the visitors.

How do they drink? "When it rains, they make use of the small dams that have collected enough water for a while," the people say. One man added: "We find water also in deep wells but one day, soon, they will dry up."

"We continually ask officials to help us, but so far, nobody seems to care or even listen to us," a

man cried out. Scanning the faces of these men, they all look middle aged. Even the young men — tired, haggard, malnourished and constantly striving for a better life for their young ones.

All children, except one, are not fully schooled. That girl was extremely lucky. Her father was able to afford sending her to school in Ghor Al Safi.

Nobody can afford sending their children to proper schools. The people in the "village" get between JD 10 and JD 40 per person, a month, from the Ministry of Social Development. Thus, the rest attend school in the nearby "village."

According to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) survey of Quriquera, there is one male school for 63 students and six

teachers from the fourth to the tenth grade. There is another school with 82 male and female students and seven female teachers providing education from the first until the eighth grade. Only the first three grades are mixed, the report said.

Most of the people pleaded with the visitors to let their children have proper education. "We need our children to learn," they said. "Education is the only way out of poverty," many locals echoed.

There is no water in the school, no electricity, no furniture or books. "We had an electricity generator but that broke down four years ago," a little boy in the crowd said. The NHF report reveals that even the bathroom in the school is shared between the boys and girls. Another burden for the children, to attain the little education they can get, is trying to reach the school. They have to walk between seven to 15 kilometres twice everyday.

One young boy was pushed towards the visitors. He had no hands. With a quivering voice, Sayed Hamed Suleiman, 12, told the visitors: "I was on a pick-up when I found a can which looked like a tuna fish can. When I got close to it and picked it up, I found out it was a bomb. But it was too late for I saw my hands blow out and fly away."

The problem, he added, is that the "school dismissed me saying I cannot learn without hands." Asked if he would like to study if he had a chance to, he said with tears in his eyes: "I really would like to learn and study, but how can I? They do not let me."

Health services in the "village"

are even more primitive than the educational services. Everything is deficient. The NHF reports that the area lacks any kind of basic medical services. The settlers are limited to a small clinic with one male nurse and some expired medicines, but no doctor has set foot in the area.

However, when the visitors arrived, health equipment was available. But, according to a local, "the health centre that is now available was not there a week ago. It was built and equipped because of Her Majesty Queen Noor's visit and we will be denied this right once the visitors leave."

'The children in the village are malnourished. They walk barefooted, pick up odd pieces on the ground and automatically put them in their mouths. There are so many flies on their faces that the children no longer shake them away. They have no toys.'

The local who highlighted this fact to the Queen added: "There is no doctor, no medicines. We only have a male nurse to attend the 3,000 population." He told the visitors that a lot of work is laid on his shoulders and some other men. "Especially in the summer because so many people get bitten by snakes and scorpions."

In his statement to the Queen, the local was outraged and pointed out that "we need a health education programme. People here bury their dead as

they are (in their clothes) and they even bury them with their lifetime possessions."

Speaking to some women, the visitors asked how do the people take their sick to the clinic. "We take a ride," the woman said. Even though there is no form of transportation, no telephones, no post delivery within any of the surrounding areas, there is not any voluntary organisation to help, neither.

Take a ride how? The visitors later were told: "We carry the sick to the main Ghor Al Safi-Aqaba road and from there we hitch a ride to the hospital or wherever we want to go. Of

donated a sum of money to be used for building one," the women added.

Some of those who do fast, because they have battered radios, said: "We fast on tea and bread." The "kitchen" is some space on the sand covered with tree branches and plastic on top to prevent rain from entering. But the plastic was filled with holes. There is wood (long, skinny twigs) on the ground which was used as an oven. Some houses had nothing in their kitchen but the "oven." Other houses had cooking oil and a few pots and pans.

Some live on tea and bread everyday. Others, in the first and second group, live on potatoes, rice and a few other vegetables grown on the farm.

The children in the "village" are malnourished. They walk bare footed, pick up odd pieces on the ground and automatically put them in their mouths. There are so many flies on their faces that the children no longer shake them away. They have no toys. They sit by their mothers all day, in their "houses." Their mothers hibernate in their houses, under the shade, waiting for their husbands to return from work.

The organisation headed by Princess Alia Al Faisal, Al Audi Al Waideh, is planning to improve the situation of the people, giving priority to children. The organisation will also develop the infrastructure.

These people are in dire need of help. The sad part is that Quriquera is not the only underdeveloped area, "there are many people like us all over the country. But everybody has so far turned a blind eye," a "villager" said.

Weapons training and voting vs. staying home

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Iraqi occupation transformed Ismael Al Matruk from a carefree college student into a resistance fighter and feminist.

Now she wants weapons training and the right to vote, not the old life of servants and shopping. Mariam Hussein Sala was terrified of the Iraqis, but still ventured out of her house and waited for hours on the bread line to feed her seven children. Iraq forced Kuwaiti women to be strong, she said, but now it is time to stay home, wear a traditional black robe and leave politics to the men.

For Kuwaiti women who stayed behind when Iraqi tanks rumbled into the emirate Aug. 2, life changed dramatically: Servants fled-husbands and children who left the house were arrested, sometimes shot.

After lives of the pampered luxury bought by oil, women were forced to assume the unfamiliar male role of providing for their families — because they were less likely targets.

Some used their loose robes, called abayas, to conceal guns, messages and clandestine newspapers for the resistance.

It was a politicising experience for many Kuwaiti women to spend seven months actively or passively resisting the Iraqis, being the family mainstay and doing unaccustomed housework.

For others, it was just an unwelcome interlude in their traditional, sheltered lives.

In Kuwait's Muslim culture, where purity is the passport to marriage and rape is often punishable by death, many families tried to keep young daughters indoors the entire time.

"I know, in the last few days of the occupation, 37 women were thrown on the streets dead," said Eman Al Badah, a radio engineer and pro-democracy activist. "Some of them were taken because they distributed underground papers. Some were captured in meeting of resistance cells."

"One woman spoke badly about Saddam in the supermarket. Some were caught because they distributed money. One woman who wrote to a human rights group about what the Iraqis were doing was killed."

Anywhere from several hundred to more than 1,000 women were reportedly raped by Iraqi soldiers, including grandmothers and children as young as 10, police and hospital officials said.

"I know a girl thrown out of her house because she was raped," said Amani Ali, a Kuwait University student. "Some families did not accept girls back. Some didn't want to tell anyone."

A 33-year-old businesswoman with four children was a resistance heroine.

She was raped, tortured and sentenced to death for carrying 1 million Iraqi dinars (\$300,000)



Jetson of war — A Kuwaiti woman waits with her shopping, surrounded by rubbish still to be collected.

and 20 fake IDs, then freed by an Iraqi captain who fancied her. The woman, who uses only the initials M. M. to protect her children, said three women resistance members at her prison were executed.

Living through the Iraqi terror forged a unique bond.

They number about 100,000 in a prewar population of 800,000 Kuwaitis and 1.3 million other residents. Many are in the forefront of the campaign for political and social change.

Immediately after the invasion, 200 women demonstrated, holding up pictures of their emir and chanting "Kuwait for the Kuwaitis." Women organised the first major postwar protest, demanding that Iraq free all Kuwaiti prisoners of war.

"Those outside, they didn't change," she said. "They are as they were before. I think when you suffer, you become more mature."

"We care no more now for those things that were very im-

portant to us before, because we faced death. Clothes, this superficial way of life, the tea parties and things. I think these are not important any more."

"I feel myself behave differently. I see things more clearly. No hypocrisy. No more spoiled women of Kuwait."

Kuwaiti women are well-educated, Ms. Bastaki said, and should be allowed to vote.

"What is the difference between men and women except physical strength and shape?" she

asked. "To be a member of the Majlis (parliament) and be able to vote doesn't require strength."

Even women who prefer to leave politics to men said surviving the occupation gave them new strength and self-confidence.

Zaharq Hussein Ali Al Moul, who said she was probably about 100 years old, showed a reporter how she danced when the Iraqis fled, turning around and around in her abaya.

When she said "God should kill Saddam," several dozen women waiting with her in a bread line shouted agreement. She laughed, eyes twinkling, and said she'd never danced in public before.

Mrs. Hussein Sala said: "Thanks to God, I became stronger," after telling of being harassed by Iraqi soldiers who looked for weapons in her house and searched her car.

"We encourage women to go into careers like teaching and medicine, but we don't want women to vote in Gulf countries," she said. "Men are always better than women at running the country."

A woman who identified herself only as Fitoh said women want to do more for their country, "but I have my freedom without voting. The men can do it better."

The emir and crown prince have said giving women the vote is a possibility, but no timetable has been mentioned and many women believe victory won't be

swift or easy.

Imad Al Saif, a lawyer, described himself as one of the few Kuwaiti men who support political rights for women.

"Our society has a lot of old traditions, especially with playing a role in political life," he said. "We still have men who don't believe women have a role."

Women earned more respect from men during the occupation, said Huda Sale, 26, but "I think more women's liberation will threaten men's authority and I think that's very difficult for men to accept."

Ms. Sale, a postgraduate student of philosophy, said that, in addition to not having the vote, a woman is paid less, must have her father's permission to marry, can be divorced without being informed and cannot keep the children.

"We will be fighting on all these fronts," she said.

Kuwaiti women seem generally optimistic, however, that the war improved their standing with the opposite sex.

Women in business often were relegated to lower positions outside their fields of study before the invasion, said Raba Sulman, a microfilm technician for the labour ministry.

"They may get a good salary, but not a good job," she said. "Giving women the right to vote may help them get good positions in ministries, banks and companies."

Will women succeed?

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LONDON (AP) — English soc-

the existing league might not welcome back breakaway clubs that got relegated from a Premier League.

"I don't find it acceptable that the first division should be hijacked from the football league," Fox said. "I thought football needed unity but that doesn't seem the view of the governing body."

While the British media dubbed the F.A.'s suggestion a super-league, all the proposal does is bring English soccer into line with most leagues in Europe.

The F.A. argues a smaller league would help national teams in Britain, giving players an occasional weekend off before international games involving England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and also Ireland.

And the big clubs, who hope to clean up in major domestic and European Cup competitions, will have extra breathing space for replays.

"We wholeheartedly support Football Association's proposals which we believe are essential to ensure a successful and healthy

football industry in general and the England team in particular," said Ken Friar, chief executive of standings leader Arsenal.

"The F.A. are to be congratulated upon their initiative."

Manchester United chief executive Martin Edwards also welcomed the plan.

"Reducing the number of games will leave players fitter and fresher for their clubs and for (their countries). The important principle is that leading clubs will be in control of their own destiny," Edwards said.

The majority of the owners believe that bigger leagues mean more games and, therefore, more money for all.

Derby County managing director Stuart Webb, whose team is last-placed in the 20-strong first division, hit out at the move.

"It is another classic example of the rich clubs trying to get richer," he said.

"Big clubs have the bulk of the sponsorship and the bulk of the TV money — leaving the majority of clubs to fight for the scraps."

MOSCOW (R) — A driving ambition to score a notable first

bring midfielder Bruno Germain into the back line and recall veteran Jean Tigana in midfield. English winger Chris Waddle, dismissed in the second leg with Milan, and captain and striker Jean-Pierre Papin, who had a groin injury, are both fit again.

Aware that they fill it at the same hurdle last year despite having by far the best of the play in their two matches with Benfica, Marseille are also worried at thousands of a let-down after their impressive dismissal of Milan.

"They had Milan in their heads for two-and-a-half months," Guedes said.

"It's always the same when you achieve something great. It's difficult to re-motivate afterwards."

Spartak trainer Oleg Romanets had said little about his plans except that he will probably use the same team which beat Real 3-1 in Madrid and secured their semifinals berth.

That includes striker Dmitri Radchenko, who scored twice in Spain, outstanding young sweepers Vassili Kulkov and international forward Valery Schmarov.

They young Moscow club is known for its intricate style based on short, fast passing and quick moving off the ball. Many players, such as Kulkov, Schmarov and Igor Shalimov, were members of the Soviet team who won the Olympic gold medal in Seoul.

Against both Napoli and Real, Spartak had to be content with 0-0 home draws and Romanets said he believed his team capable of winning in Marseille if the French champions hold them in Moscow.

"The important thing will be to stop them scoring goals here," Kulkov said.

LISBON (R) — The return to fitness of German defender

"There is no better player than him on the left flank, his attacking drive is overwhelming," he added.

**WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANNAH HIRSCH**

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 9
♥ A K Q 4
♦ A 10 8 5
♣ A J 2

WEST **EAST**
♠ 8 6 3 ♠ Q 7 2
♥ J 9 7 6 3 ♥ 10 8 2
♦ K J 3 2 ♦ 6
♣ 3 ♣ K Q 10 9 7 6

SOUTH
♠ K J 10 5 4
♥ 5
♦ Q 9 7 4
♣ 8 5 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	4 ♠	Dbl
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Three of ♣

The Russians came! As a result of *Wolfszest*, Russian players took part for the first time in a world bridge championship in Geneva, Switzerland. They came armed with complex bidding machinery, but on this

deal they fell victim to old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity.

South's opening bid was of the worst variety. All North's bids except the last asked questions about South's hand. South described a minimum opening bid with five spades, four diamonds and a singleton heart. North elected to try six diamonds.

Sitting West was Ralph Katz of Chicago. He led his singleton club. Declarer rose with dummy's ace and cashed the three top hums, discarding two clubs from hand. Next came a low diamond to the seven, and Katz won it with the king!

Not unnaturally, declarer presumed East held the jack, so when West exited with a spade, declarer let that ride round to his hand, then led a trump to the ace. Down one.

Had East shown out, declarer would have known he won the first trump with the jack, declarer virtually would have been forced to make his contract. The percentage play in trumps would have been to take a finesse for the king, so declarer can pick up trumps and bring in the spade suit with the help of a finesse.

BARCELONA (R) — Spanish

BARCELONA (R) — Spanish Soccer League leaders Barcelona continue their quest for a glorious treble when they clash with Juventus of Turin in a European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal first leg Wednesday.

Four points clear in the league and still in the Spanish Cup, Barcelona would love to put the icing on the cake by lifting the Cup Winners' Cup, a trophy they last won in 1989.

Barcelona have won the competition three times and Juventus once and the meeting of two of European soccer's giants is expected to draw more than 100,000 fans to the Camp Nou Stadium.

They last met in the quarterfinals of the 1985-86 European Cup when Barcelona came through 2-1 on aggregate.

The Spanish side believe they have the all-round strength to repeat that success.

"Juventus has tremendous tradition and great players, but

we have the better squad overall," said Danish International striker Michael Laudrup, who played several seasons with Juventus before joining Barcelona.

The Catalans, who reached the last four with a 4-3 aggregate victory over Dynamo Kiev, had the perfect warm-up last weekend when they scored a comfortable 3-1 league win away to Real Burgos.

Juventus, who knocked out Liege of Belgium in the quarter-final, had an unhappy time last Saturday, going down 1-0 away to Fiorentina after missing a penalty.

They are now fourth in the Italian League, eight points behind leaders Sampdoria.

Saturday's game was a personal disaster for Italian idol Roberto Baggio, who joined Juventus from Fiorentina last May for a world-record \$13 million.

He was given a rough reception

WARSAW (R) — Legia War-

WARSAW (R) — Legia Warsaw, the surprise European Cup Winners' Cup semifinalists, host England's Manchester United Wednesday with their defence in complete disarray.

The Poles, in their most important match since losing to Feyenoord Rotterdam in the 1970 European Cup semifinal, will be without almost all of their first-choice defenders.

Goalkeeper Maciej Szczesny is banned for four matches while international defender Dariusz Kubicki is suspended.

Centre-back Krzysztof Budka has not recovered from a month-old ankle injury while fellow central-defender, Arkadiusz Gmur, is struggling to get himself fit in time.

Four other top players are also injured.

But coach Wladyslaw Stachurski, a defender 21 years ago against Feyenoord, can count on striker Wojciech Kowalczyk who

scored both goals Saturday as Legia, now ninth in Poland's first division, beat lowly motor Lublin 2-0.

Kowalczyk also scored twice against Sampdoria, the beaten holder of the Cup Winners' Cup, in the 2-2 draw in Italy which gave Legia a 3-2 aggregate win in the quarter-finals.

Szczesny picked up his ban in that match for hitting Italian international Roberto Mancini during the final minutes.

United manager Alex Ferguson also has some problems. His captain Bryan Robson is suspended while defender Mike Phelan pulled a hamstring Saturday and is doubtful.

But key midfielders Paul Ince and Welsh international Clayton Blackmore, who missed the 1-1 league draw against lowly Aston Villa Saturday, are both set to return.

The English club will also have

COPENHAGEN (R) — Brondby, the first Danes to reach the

COPENHAGEN (R) — Brondby, the first Danes to reach the semifinals of a European Club competition, aim to show Roma a trick or two in the UEFA Cup Wednesday.

The home game will be the toughest task in the Copenhagen club's brief history but Brondby, the clear underdogs, have made something of a habit of upsetting the big-name teams.

They have an unbeaten home record in Europe this season and refuse to be over-awed by the star-studded visitors.

Team coach Morten Olsen, the former Danish national captain, said the team's tactics will be to prevent a quick Roma goal and then to impose Brondby's own style on the game.

The Danish League leaders' high-pressure approach of constantly harrying the man with the ball can throw more stylish but

less physical opponents off their stride.

Olsen acknowledged that man for man Roma were the better team. "But so were Eintracht Frankfurt, and so were Bayer Leverkusen..." he said, naming two of the four teams the Danes beat in the earlier rounds of the competition.

He is counting on Brondby's team spirit, organisation and refusal to be impressed to see the team through.

Where the Danes stand resolute, the Italians are uncertain about the future of their club which may soon be up for sale following the death of president Dino Viola in January.

Against Brondby, they will be strengthened by the return of Italian international midfielder Giuseppe Giannini who missed Saturday's 1-1 draw with city

MUNICH, Germany (R) —

Libero Klaus Augenthaler, criticised recently as too slow, old and fragile for Bayern Munich's European campaign, will be battling against time as well as Red Star Belgrade in Wednesday's semifinal.

The 33-year-old German World Cup star has been attacked in the domestic media for being past his prime as Bayern have shown hesitant form ahead of the first home leg in Munich.

This year could be his last chance to win the European title that has eluded him since he joined Bayern as a teenager in 1975.

Bayern fans, many of whom remember watching Franz Beckenbauer's artistic performances as a libero in the 1970s, have been split into two camps over the controversial choice of sweeper which has dominated the build-up, to the tie.

When the veteran was to miss the second leg of the quarter-finals at Porto in Portugal after being sent off in the first leg, Germany's 24-year-old international Stefan Reuter took Augenthaler's role and performed superbly.

Augenthaler also missed several games through a thigh muscle injury but the player, who retired from international soccer after July's World Cup triumph, is adamant that he is not to blame for the team's recent poor league performances.

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FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your own family should be the center of your activities now and you are able to show others you are a devoted home person even while out.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Get out and do that shopping and get in touch with those persons with whom you can set up appointments whether for health or business reasons.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you feel to be the best way you can save some money is just right now for you will need more after your birthrite is past gone.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can wisely take a good long look at yourself in the mirror now to decide just what you want from life and others about you in the future.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever has been postponed by you can be quietly done now so waste no more time but wind up all kinds of unfinished business then have much fun.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) There are a number of swift-moving activities of a social nature which you would be wise to be present so get out and see old friends now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you would like to do that does require you to think in terms of those in high places is very good for you can get more prestige.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is that time when you are able to see for yourself how to expand and extend your interests far beyond their present boundaries.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a prophetic hunch deep within yourself what is best for you to do now so procrastinate no longer but get busy and put in motion.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your allies want to be closer partners to you and it is easy if you will give them the chance to join forces with you for closer accord.

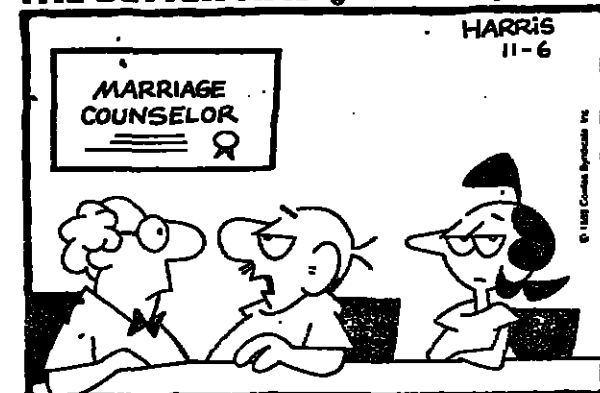
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make a point to get at all those duties facing you and use your fine ability to solve problems by the ingenuity with which you tackle tough situations.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own fancy is such that you now wish to have a good time, every spare moment which is yours. Just what the planets have in mind for you now.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he will be more interested in the world at large than in personal emotional satisfactions. Travel to foreign places and dealing with highly placed persons in those locations will become a reality for this chart in later life so be sure to encourage training in language and the arts.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

By Harris



"Sometimes I feel like a flat woodchuck on the Highway of Love."

Unscramble these four Jumbles.

one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PEECA

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(With Square Magic Scrabble set, you can make 60 words.)

AZIME

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

TUKJEN

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

GITHEY

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ THEM □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

A SWEATER LEADS SEX APPEAL TO SOME, WHILE ALL IT DOES FOR OTHERS IS ---

© 1987

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE Daily Greenwald by Emily Salzlander

ACROSS

1 Set regularly

9 Suggest

10 Corruption

14 Antelope

15 Br. composer

16 Imp

17 Thatching

18 Non-clerical

19 Revise

20 Jerusalem

21 Polka —

22 — Plains

26 Joint Injury

27 Category

31 Arabic letter

35 Peak

36 Van Gogh town

38 Wallet item

39 Symbol of strength

42 Le Gallienne

43 Poker play

44 Flora's companion

45 Sobbed

46 — de guerre

48 Melien

49 Trojans' campus

51 Each

52 Undeclared

53 heavy-weight champion

59 Model wood

60 Melange

61 Football team

62 — bar

64 Indian bar

65 — de capo

66 Keaton or Keweenaw

67 — sign

68 Optimistic

DOWN

1 A. Johnson

2 Oul

3 Certain error

4 Final

5 Western bar

6 Vexel

7 SIGS, (Morse)

8 Part of MIT: abbr.

9 Extra tire

10 Flowering shrub

11 Bus. VIP

12 Gull item

13 Was ahead

21 Paper VIP

22 Garden tool

25 Fastener

26 Establish as true

27 Summary

28 Inquire

29 Refracting glass

30 Cooch river

32 Water

33 Lily

34 Wind

35 Exchange premium

36 Hunt game

37 Big game animal

41 Take it on the —

46 Az. town

48 Wooden ducks

50 Use a —

51 Award

53 Russ. said

54 Shad

55 Winglike

56 Partially

57 Elevator P.

58 Use a —

59 Clif.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14											
17											
26	26	27	28			29	30		31	32	33
35					35			37		38	
				40							
42				43						41	
45			46		47		48				
			49	50			51				
	52	53			54	55			56	57	58
59					60				61		
62					64				63		
65					67				66		

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

CART	LEFTS	COST
ACTA	BLUE	HAIR
SPORED	IN	ARE
TESTS	WITNE	ARE
ASI	WESTLE	
REDRESS	PEEL	
AXIS	WAGON	REEL
MAU	PEDAGITS	AY
SMALL	ACTS	OV
DEAP	EASTER	
ASSORT	WAG	
BAR	TRIAL	WAG
ADDBE	SORELL	
DABER	SOLO	LS
NEWS	FEEL	ON

Average L.American incomes fall for third year in a row

WASHINGTON (AP) — Average Latin American incomes fell in 1990 for the third year in a row, the Inter-American Development Bank has reported.

Production in Brazil, which accounts for more than a third of the area's total, dropped by four per cent. Since population rises by two per cent a year or more, the average income dropped even further — there were fewer goods to be shared by more people.

In 1989 the average Brazilian's income was \$2,550, according to the World Bank. A six per cent decline would bring it down to about \$2,400.

"It is now more urgent than ever that the region and the international community coordinate their efforts to place Latin America and the Caribbean once again on the road to economic

development," said the bank's annual report.

It noted a decline in living standards, especially for the very poor, and "uncontrolled growth of the informal sector" — a reference to smuggling, black markets and drug trafficking. It also spoke of "deteriorating social indicators," meaning poor health and education, and burdensome debt.

Foreign debt was estimated to have grown by \$3.5 billion in the year, due to a further piling up of \$10 billion in unpaid interest to a total of \$27 billion.

The Inter-American Development Bank, a multi-government body, attributed the overall situation to "economic adjustment measures" — cuts in government spending, attempts to increase exports, reduce inflation and

other official actions. The object of such measures is to help keep up with debt payments and put countries in a better financial position.

The rise in oil prices caused by the conflict in the Gulf made matters worse for most countries. Those with oil to sell, especially Venezuela and Mexico, increased their total income.

For the 1990s the bank nevertheless had an optimistic forecast: Total income increasing up to five per cent annually by the year 2000 if policy changes continue.

But it added that a less optimistic scenario could mean an annual production increase of only 2.3 per cent — no increase in average incomes but still better than the 1980s which showed an overall decline.

Cardinals say local churches must help finance Vatican

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Dioceses around the world will have to come up with money to help the Holy See plug its persistent budget deficits, Vatican officials have said.

The deficit has been covered mainly by "Peter's pence," the annual offering of Roman Catholics to the Pope that has been bringing in more than \$10 million a year.

But that money should be used for special charitable work, such as meeting the urgent needs of the church in Eastern Europe, said American Cardinal Edmund Szoka, the Holy See's financial chief.

He told a special meeting of church leaders on the Vatican's financial problems that it therefore will fall on the shoulders of local churches to help the Vatican finance its operations.

The Vatican has been reporting a deficit since Pope John Paul II decided to lift some of the secrecy covering church finances.

The most recent figures available are a forecast of a record deficit of \$36 million for 1990.

Cardinal Jose Rosalio Castillo Lara of Venezuela, another top financial official at the Vatican, said financial help from local churches to the Vatican was actually an "obligation" under church law.

He said such funding must be coordinated by the national bishops conference of each country.

Castillo Lara said the Vatican's financial problems were not a result of poor management but stemmed from "a radical disproportion" between its revenues and its growing needs.

Dollar's rise and weak growth abroad threaten U.S. exports

WASHINGTON (R) — A rapidly rising dollar and weak economic growth abroad could mean trouble for U.S. economic policymakers who are looking to exports to help pull the economy out of recession and feed the recovery, economists say.

"Up until appreciation of the dollar occurred, we thought net exports were going to be a powerful cushion for the economy," said Laurence Meyer, who heads an economic consulting firm in St. Louis, Missouri.

"The best hope now is that net exports will be neutral or a small, almost negligible contributor to growth," he added.

Only a few months ago, officials were worried about the weakness of the dollar which hit a record low of 1.4435 marks on Feb. 11.

With the decline of the dollar

making U.S. goods a bargain in overseas markets, Bush administration officials and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan pointed to strong exports as one of the few bright spots in the U.S. economy.

But since the end of the Gulf war, the U.S. currency has surged 10.3 per cent against the Deutschmark and 4.6 per cent against the yen, making U.S. products more expensive.

Already, the rising currency, coupled with economic weakness abroad is giving U.S. businesses a headache.

International Business Machines (IBM) Corp. cited a worldwide economic slowdown last month when it told investors that first quarter earnings would be less than expected. Industry analysts said the strong dollar is a

disaster for IBM. Undersecretary of the Treasury David Mulford told reporters last month: "We are concerned about the rapidity of the rise. We are not seeking a stronger dollar."

Since 1987, the United States has been narrowing its trade shortfall with the rest of the world. The recession has slowed imports and while export growth has slowed since the boom year of 1988, imports have been slowing at a greater pace.

Financial analysts said the dollar's recent strength is due largely to the weakness of overseas economies. Australia, Britain and Canada are in recession, while France and Italy are near recession and Japan's growth is slowing.

Germany, having problems with the cost of reunifying east

and west, has raised taxes and its economy is slowing to a crawl.

Factors feeding the dollar's strength are falling interest rates in other countries, the psychological lift brought on by the quick end to the Gulf war and concerns about the political problems in the Soviet Union, said Allen Sinai, an economist with the Boston Co., an investment advisory firm.

"The dollar's recent strength certainly won't help our exports. Neither will the slowdown worldwide," Sinai said.

Stephen Cooney, director of international investment and finance at the National Association of Manufacturers, said if the dollar stabilises at recent levels of about 1.70 marks and 140 yen, it will not have a major impact on U.S. exports.

Romania's new liberal law opens door to direct foreign investment

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania has opened the gates to direct foreign investment with a liberal new law allowing full foreign ownership, capital protection, repatriation of profits and tax breaks to boost the transition to a market economy.

The foreign investment law passed by parliament last week will take effect some time this month after publication in the official gazette.

The most significant restriction is that only a maximum 15 per cent of profits made in the Romanian currency, the leu, may be transferred abroad in hard currency.

Foreign investors will also not be allowed to own land or buy residential buildings unrelated to the business investment.

The expatriates they will be allowed to employ in Romania will be limited to experts and managers. They will not be able to import blue-collar labour.

Under Stalinist dictator Nico-

lae Ceausescu, overthrown in the December 1989 revolution, foreign investment was restricted to minority stakes in joint ventures on a very limited scale.

Foreign investors will now be free to set up new companies in Romania — wholly owned or with part-Romanian ownership — or buy stocks and shares in existing Romanian enterprises.

They may lease or buy commercial real estate and industrial plant and exploit natural resources.

Investment legislation in other East European countries has been only partly successful in attracting Western investment as it has left many outstanding problems.

The law states that all economic sectors are open to foreign investors as long as their activities pose no threat to national security, the environment, public order, health or morality.

Investments will not be nationalised, expropriated or re-

quisitioned except in the public interest. In such cases compensation will be "prompt, adequate and effective."

Imports of machinery, equipment, vehicles and other investment items will be duty-free. Imported raw materials and supplies will be exempt from duty for the first two years.

Foreign investors will not be subject to profit tax for five years if they invest in industry, farming or construction, three years in exploration, communications and transport and two years in trading, tourism, banking, insurance and other services.

Further tax advantages, including reduced tax rates, will apply for several years after the expiry of the initial tax-free period.

The government has also slashed the red tape that held up foreign investments in the past. Investors will apply to a new body, the Romanian Development Agency, to register investment projects.

Australia's BHP studies building large oil refinery in Malaysia

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's biggest company, steel and oil giant Broken Hill Pty (BHP) Company Ltd, is considering building a multimillion-dollar oil refinery in Malaysia, a company spokesman has said.

The spokesman for the company's BHP Petroleum Pty Ltd subsidiary said from Melbourne its Hawaiian subsidiary, Pacific Resources Inc, was conducting a feasibility study for a large refinery and had put Guam and Malaysia on a shortlist.

The 150,000 barrel-a-day refinery, worth around one billion Australian dollars (\$770 million), would be built in conjunction with Taiwan's Chinese Petroleum Corp, he said.

"We haven't made a decision where the refinery will be," he said. "We're a long way from

making that decision."

A national business magazine here said recently BHP applied to the Malaysian government to construct a refinery at Bintulu in the eastern state of Sarawak.

Pacific Resources' and Chinese Petroleum in December signed an agreement to jointly build a refinery somewhere in the Asia-Pacific region.

BHP's Hawaiian refinery has a capacity of 95,000 barrels a day, more than one third of BHP's worldwide crude oil production. Products include jet fuel and liquefied petroleum gas marketed in the United States, Australia and Singapore.

The planned refinery in the Asia-Pacific will focus on light transportation fuels and other products, the spokesman said.

Shipping meeting urges renewal of world fleet to boost safety

OSLO (R) — Representatives of the international shipping community called Tuesday for a renewal of the ageing world fleet and more training of crews in order to help avert disasters at sea.

"The accident rate is showing signs of rising, after a long period of improvement," William O'Neill, secretary-general of the United Nations' International Maritime Organisation (IMO), told a two-day conference on safety at sea.

"Statistics show quite conclusively that old ships have more accidents than new ones," he said at the start of the meeting.

"Life extension can only be justified if safety is made a priority, rather than profit but I wonder how often this happens," he added.

About 250 shipowners and representatives of governments, maritime bodies, classification societies and trade unions are attending the Oslo meeting, organised by Norwegian authorities.

The need to improve safety at sea has been highlighted by recent major oil spills from tankers and disasters such as the Scandinavian Star ferry blaze off Norway a year ago, which killed 158 people.

A 15-year-slump in the shipping market has also discouraged shipowners from ordering new vessels and many fear old, rusting tankers may cause more disasters.

"The world community can

simply not accept a rising level of risk in the maritime transport sector," said Norway's minister of trade and shipping, Eldrid Nordboe.

"Over the years, each successive disaster has led to renewed efforts to promote safety at sea. It is tragic that the progress which has been made has thus been based on costly, bitter experience," she said.

Nordboe said Norway was tightening requirements for the standard of vessels and crews — ranging from regular fire patrols to better inspections by port authorities — and urged other nations to follow suit.

The meeting will air new ideas and recommendations but it will not provide a final document or any binding obligations. O'Neill said shipping safety lagged far behind standards required for planes.

"I... believe that maintenance of aircraft is more closely controlled, all key personnel being duly licensed and their work logged, with each being held fully responsible for the quality of their work," he said.

Several speakers mentioned increasing public demand to improve safety at sea to save lives and prevent environmental disasters.

The shipping industry's reputation worldwide is not very high at the moment, John Lytras, vice chairman of the International Chamber of Shipping, said.

Chinese legislature approves programme and new tax law

BEIJING (AP) — China's legislature approved draft versions of the nation's economic plans for the next five and 10 years, at the final meeting of its annual session Tuesday.

The 2,610 delegates who attended the closing session of the National People's Congress also approved a civil procedure law, a new income tax law for foreign businesses, the state budget and several annual reports.

The major task of the 16-day congress was to study, revise and approve the drafts of China's 10-year programme and five-year plan, which set basic economic policies and priorities.

This was the first time the leadership has drawn up a decade-long plan.

The economic blueprint promises to expand the role of the free market in the next decade, but stresses that state ownership and central planning will remain dominant. It was approved with only nine opposing votes.

Delegates made more than

100, "substantial revisions or changes of wording" in the outline that Premier Li Peng read at the opening session, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The changes include a clause on improving the performance of state-owned enterprises, which have become a drain on the national economy.

The congress swiftly rubber stamped the eight items on its final agenda in less than an hour. The Communist Party dictates all decision-making, and the voting was merely a formality.

Delegates voted with electronic ballots at their seats, and the results were flashed almost immediately on huge screens in the cavernous Great Hall of the People. Every item passed with at least 2,200 votes.

The new income tax law for foreign enterprises goes into effect July 1, annulling two separate income tax laws for foreign businesses promulgated earlier. It standardises the income tax on foreign businesses, which had varied in the past depending on locality.

AVISO A TODOS LOS ESPANOL RESIDENTES EN JORDANIA

El proximo 26 de Mayo se celebraran elecciones municipales y autonómicas en España. Los españoles residentes en el extranjero que deseen ejercer su derecho de voto deberan comunicarlo a la Embajada de España. A tal efecto seran expuestas a partir de hoy día 10 de Abril y hasta el día 17, inclusive, las listas electorales. En este plazo se podra presentar toda reclamacion administrativa sobre la inclusion o exclusion en el censo.

Para consultar las listas o para mayor informacion: Embajada de España Primer círculo - C/Reina Zein Jabal Amman - Amman Telf. 622140 / 624187

Vietnam minister offers workers to 'anywhere'

HANOI (R) — Vietnam wants to send its labour force to any country which needs workers, Labour Minister Tran Dinh Hoan was quoted as saying Monday.

"We will continue sending workers to the Soviet Union and some other Eastern European countries," he said in the daily Hanoi Moi.

"At the same time we will widen the market by sending our labour to the Middle East, Africa, the European Community, North Europe, Southeast Asian

countries, Laos and Cambodia," he said.

Vietnam has sent workers abroad since 1980, mainly to the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Iraq, in return for aid.

About two thirds of the 280,000 overseas workers have returned home because of the collapse of socialism in Europe and the Gulf war, depriving Vietnam of foreign exchange and swelling the ranks of the unemployed.

Scandal rocks Brazil's social security system

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A scandal involving billions of dollars from Brazil's social security system has shaken the government and prompted a high-level investigation.

Brazil's leading circulation daily said that government investigators listed \$5.93 billion in uncollected revenue or misappropriations from the \$25 billion retirement programme.

There was no immediate government response to the report by the Folha de São Paulo newspaper, which carried comments from officials from the programme and the ministries of labour and economy.

President Fernando Collor de Mello, who took office pledging to fight corruption, has declared "open season" on fraud involving the programme. The nation's police chief, Romeu Tuma, has compared its management to Swiss cheese: "It's full of holes, and there's fraud everywhere," he recently told reporters.

Thousands of fictitious retirees and people representing deceased retirees are believed to be receiving benefits nationwide. Collor announced who is not ripping off social security.

The minister compounded his problems with off-the-cuff remarks to journalists. Pressed about whether he would be fired because of his failed investigation, he said: "My situation is not good but it could be worse. I could have cancer or AIDS."

In response to the widespread criticism, Collor appointed the high-level panel. Magri is not a member.

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Adel Imam & Yusra in **'Karakon' in the street** (Arabic)

3:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

MICKEY ROURKE...IN **A PRAYER FOR THE DYING**

12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema NIJOUN Tel: 675571

BAT MAN

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238

FUNNY FAMILY

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 8:00, 10:00 p.m.

South Africa presents bill to scrap race classification

CAPE TOWN (R) — The South African government published a draft law Tuesday to end race classification, the basis of the 43-year-old apartheid system dividing ruling whites from the voteless black majority.

The six-line proposal, which is certain to be accepted by the National Party-dominated parliament, implements the last of several sweeping reforms announced by President F.W. de Klerk on Feb. 1 this year.

It proposes the repeal of 10 laws that enforce race classification at birth and amendments to four other laws to remove sections concerning racial definitions.

The Population Registration Act allocates everybody to one of 10 racial categories and has been used to split families, with parents and children forced to live in different areas.

The repeal bill adds, however, that while children born after its

passage through parliament will not be classified by race, government can continue on the basis of existing racial divisions.

"Notwithstanding the repeal of the Population Registration Act, 1950, anything done in terms thereof shall... remain in force as if the repeal had not taken place," the bill says.

A government official said this section meant that segregated education and whites-only elections could continue until a new constitution is agreed and implemented.

De Klerk has promised to negotiate South Africa's transition from white rule to democracy, including full political rights for blacks, who outnumber whites by five to one.

He said in February he would scrap race classification in a package of fundamental reforms including the repeal of residential segregation and an end to land apartheid, which reserves 87 per

cent of the country for white farmers.

"The South African statute book will be devoid within months of the... cornerstones of apartheid," he said.

De Klerk's reforms enraged the white right, but Western governments quickly signalled approval by promising to review anti-apartheid sanctions when all the changes had been put to parliament.

The land reform measures, including plans to give land to blacks holding long-term leases, were presented last month and are expected to be approved before July.

De Klerk has also said the Group Areas Act, which imposed residential segregation, could be disregarded even before its formal repeal.

The reforms have been welcomed by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), but the movement has criticised

Manila banks bombed, security tightened

MANILA (R) — Suspected army rebels bombed three banks and a power sub-station in Manila Tuesday in a fresh attempt to destabilise Philippine President Corason Aquino's government, officials said.

In an unrelated development, troops backed by helicopter gunships battled Communist guerrillas in the southern province of North Cotabato. The military said at least 13 people had been killed in fighting that began Sunday.

The latest bomb attacks in Manila could have been triggered by Monday's protest resignation of armed forces deputy chief Major-General Alexander Aguirre who had warned Aquino of renewed military unrest, officials said.

"The initial assessment is that the latest wave of bombings... is a continuing effort by the rightist rebel movement to sow terror and destabilise the government," national police spokesman Superintendent Crescencio Maralit said in a radio interview.

"They feel the public has forgotten them and that they have to do something dramatic so that the people will know they are still around," Maralit said.

National Police Director-General Cesar Nazareno immediately ordered police around Manila to step up patrols and secure business and financial districts.

"The order is to cover all possible areas where the terrorists might likely strike again," Maralit added.

The bombs, made of sticks of dynamite and plastic explosives, exploded within minutes of each other at three branches of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), one of the country's biggest commercial banks.

They blew off a part of a roof, started a fire and wrecked windows and office equipment. One janitor was injured.

A bomb lobbed from a car also damaged an electrical sub-station, police said, causing a short break in power in parts of Manila.

The BPI is partly owned by a real estate conglomerate headed by a businessman supporting the Aquino administration.

Aguino appeared unruffled by the incidents and made no reference to them when he spoke Tuesday before diplomats and military officers at a shrine for Filipino soldiers killed in World War II.

But the 58-year-old president stressed the need for unity to protect the democracy he restored after ousting then President Ferdinand Marcos in a 1986 popular revolt.

"We can be truly free only if we are united and willing to commit ourselves to the defence of our democratic way of life," he said.

Police also blamed rebel soldiers for most of the more than 50 bomb explosions that hit Manila in the last months of 1990.

Outgoing armed forces chief Lieutenant-General Rodolfo Biazon blamed Tuesday's attacks on army rebels who have failed to unseat Aquino in six previous coup attempts.

"Those elements who want to destabilise the government saw an opportunity to do it, by riding on yesterday's events," Biazon told reporters, referring to Aguirre's resignation.

Soviet troops begin pullout from Poland

BORNE-SULINOWO, Poland (AP) — The Soviet Red Army began its long-awaited pullout from Poland Tuesday as 60 soldiers clambered aboard a 20-wagon train of missile launchers and trucks headed for home.

The withdrawal began in heavy rain after a late-morning ceremony at a railway siding, which included speeches by Soviet and Polish generals and a band playing the Soviet national anthem.

The train, carrying members of the Guards Missile Brigade, was leaving under the first phase of a permanent pullout by the Red Army, which has been stationed on Polish soil since evicting the German occupiers in 1944.

Soviet Commander Gen. Viktor Dubynin told the troops at this base in northwest Poland that their mission to guarantee "the independence of Poland" had been successfully completed.

Children held up a banner reading, "thank you for your services in the Northern Group of Forces."

The approximately 1,100 members of the Guards Missile Brigade will be withdrawn over the next two months, with their unit disbanded when it reaches Leningrad, said Lt. Gen. Nikolai Domashev, Dubynin's deputy.

Feelings on the withdrawal were mixed among Poles living near the sprawling base, one of the largest military training areas in Europe.

One man said he regretted the end of illegal gasoline sales by the Soviet soldiers to hard-pressed local farmers.

But Zygmund Lichwa, the Polish railway official in charge of the troop train, said, "each country has its own army, which looks after its own borders. That is the way it should be."

Before the departure, a Polish general denied that both sides had agreed on a withdrawal timetable.

"The decision is unilateral," Polish Gen. Zdzislaw Ostrowski said Monday of the Soviet plans.

"And we have not been informed about the details of the withdrawal planned for this year," Dubynin, Soviet commander of

Greene buried in Swiss hamlet

VEVEY, Switzerland (AP) — Graham Greene was buried in a Swiss village overlooking Lake Geneva, after a Roman Catholic funeral in which he was eulogised as the "last classic writer of the 20th century."

Only about 60 people, mostly family and friends, attended the ceremony at St. John's Church, near the hospital where the English novelist died of a blood disease last Wednesday. He was 86. In a career spanning more than half a century, Greene wrote 24 novels, as well as essays and several successful movie scripts. Some of his most acclaimed novels include *The Power and the Glory* and *The Heart of the Matter*. "His work remains with us here and is his legacy to history," said Father Leopoldo Duran, a Spanish priest and longtime friend of Greene, who officiated. In his homily, Duran said Greene died peacefully, "simply turning aside and falling asleep." He described the writer as a "lover of silence and solitude."

Michael Landon has cancer

MALIBU, California (R) — Television star Michael Landon said he is suffering from cancer of the pancreas and liver but is determined to beat the life-threatening disease. "I want my agent to know that this shoots to hell any chance of doing a health food commercial," the 55-year-old actor told reporters. He said when he first learned of the possibility he had cancer, "I began doing push-ups just to make sure I was just as strong as I was the day before, and I was, so I figured I can beat it." Landon, who endeared himself to television audiences with starring roles in such series as *Bonanza*, *Little House on the Prairie* and *Highway to Heaven*, explained he had taken the unusual step of holding a press conference in the hope that he and his family would not be hounded by the media.

IRA uses woman as 'human bomb'

BELFAST (R) — Irish nationalist guerrillas used a woman as a "human bomb" for the first time in Northern Ireland, forcing a terrified cleaner to walk half a mile with a bomb in her handbag.

The woman, a cleaner at the police base in the border village of Belleek, was made to dump the bomb outside the station, police said.

She had been held hostage with her husband by four masked gunmen who also kidnapped another woman and her child. They told the cleaner all the hostages would die if she failed to deliver the

subhuman behaviour but it is what we expect from the IRA. It was so evil it falls outside the realm of human behaviour."

Unionist parliamentarian Ken Maginnis agreed: "This was an appalling ordeal. The bomb could have exploded prematurely and might have killed not only this poor unfortunate woman but anybody standing by her."

The IRA, fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, last year adopted the new tactic of using civilians as human time bombs for attacks on police and army bases.

China's premier defends crackdown, will not quit

BEIJING (R) — Hardline Premier Li Peng declared Tuesday that a harsh crackdown on dissent had kept China from going the way of Eastern Europe, and said he would not resign.

"If we had not taken the measures that we were forced into taking at that occasion, then China today might be bogged down in economic chaos and decline, as well as political instability certainly at least as severe as what has happened in some countries that used to practise socialism," Li told a news conference.

Li, a main supporter of the army's decision to crush pro-democracy unrest in 1989 with heavy loss of life, did not mention any Eastern European countries by name.

He said the harsh suppression had saved the nation and declined to rule out the use of force in any future unrest.

Chinese leaders ordered the military to crush mass demonstrations in Peking's Tiananmen Square in June 1989 killing hundreds, perhaps thousands, of protesters.

A similar wave of popular discontent eventually helped sweep away Communist governments in the former East Bloc.

"If at that critical moment, the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese government did not adopt resolute measures... China today could not enjoy its present stability or economic prosperity," Li said.

"...Even the fate of People's Republic of China would be at stake," he added.

Li spoke after the closing session of the National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament, which overwhelmingly approved his work report and economic plan for the next decade.

The premier, target last month of a coded message in the Communist Party's official newspaper demanding he resign, said he and the leadership were fully in control and laughed off attacks on his position.

"I believe that during the current term of tenure of the government I will certainly remain at my post of premier," he said. The current government's term expires next year.



Son disputes claim about Senator Kennedy

PALM BEACH, Florida (R) — U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy's son, Patrick, disputed claims that his father, half naked, chased around a waitress at the family's Florida estate on the night his cousin allegedly raped a woman there.

Patrick Kennedy, speaking to reporters Monday outside his Rhode Island home, disputed the account by Michelle Cassone, 27, a waitress who said the senator, clad only in a shirt and possibly underwear, chased her around the Palm Beach estate.

"That's her account. Mine is made with a sober mind. I had nothing to drink at Au Bar but a few ginger ales," Kennedy said.

"At one point, I saw Senator Kennedy inside the mansion without any pants on, but he might have been wearing underwear," Cassone said, declining to elaborate.

Cassone said she accompanied the senator, his son Patrick, and his nephew William Kennedy Smith to the beachside estate after a night of drinking at a trendy nightclub.

In an interview with Reuters, Cassone said she was unaware of any violence while she was at the Palm Beach, Florida, mansion. She said she did not see Smith at the estate.

Cassone said she also saw a woman "running into the ocean behind the house without any clothes on. But I couldn't see her well enough to see who it was."

A 29-year-old Florida woman who met the Kennedys and Smith at the bar, said she was raped by Smith at the estate in the early morning hours of March 30.

Smith, a 30-year-old medical student, gave hair and blood samples to Palm Beach police investigators Sunday in Washington, but on the advice of his lawyer, he refused to answer questions.

In a rape investigation, blood and hair samples taken from suspects are usually tested to see if they can be matched to physical evidence, including traces of sperm taken from the victim's body.

Senator Kennedy and Patrick Kennedy also met with police at the weekend.

Patrick Kennedy also said he was concerned about his cousin's refusal to talk to police.

South Korean opposition inaugurates new party

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's best-known opposition figure, Kim Dae-Jung, presided at the formation of his newest opposition party Tuesday promising to put an end to "militaristic policy."

The new party, tentatively named the New Democratic Union (NDU), merges Kim's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), the country's main parliamentary opposition party, and the newly-formed Party for New Democratic Alliance (PNDA).

"I believe that we laid a definite foundation for a unified opposition party, which expects to take over the government," Kim told a cheering crowd of 5,000 at an inaugural ceremony in Seoul's cavernous Korea Exhibition Centre.

He urged other opposition parties to fight together to put a stop "to the generations of military culture which ruled (South) Korea for 30 years and which still control the current regime."

"We appeal strongly to all



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Europe opens to Poles

SWIECKO, Poland (AP) — Visa-free travel has opened up Western Europe to more Poles than ever before, and Polish authorities have vowed to make sure its citizens don't wear out their welcome by smuggling and working illegally.

Visa requirements that limited Poles' access to Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg were lifted Monday. The Scandinavian nations will soon follow suit.

For ordinary Poles, these developments are among the first tangible fruits of Poland's otherwise painful drive toward democracy and capitalism.

Previously, Poles were required to get advance visas, and many Poles were kept out by various restrictions.

"Today we feel like normal people," said one of the first day's travellers, Ewa Romanowska of Warsaw, who travelled to Berlin to visit friends.

"If you want to go somewhere, the only thing you have to worry about is if you have the money," she said, recalling the often humiliating and at times fruitless waits at Western European embassies for visas.

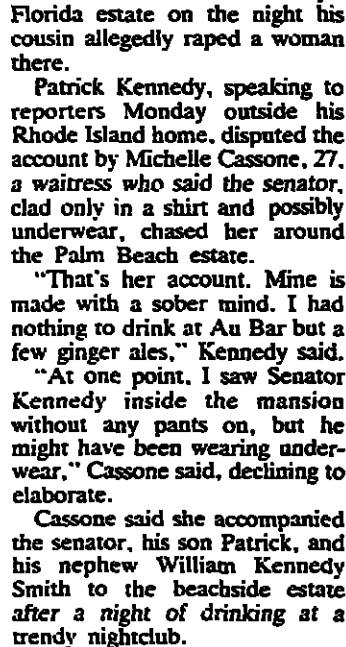
The Polish travellers said they were going to visit relatives, shop for cheaper and more plentiful electronics goods, buy cars, or just see the sights.

German authorities estimated that 50,000 Poles had crossed into Germany by midday on Monday at 20 border points.

Polish authorities have promised to enforce strict customs controls at the border to control smuggling.

They have also agreed to pay for the costs of deporting any Polish citizen who overstays the three-month limit on visa-free tourist visits, works illegally or otherwise breaks the law. In addition, violators will be subject to a 12-month travel ban.

Customs agents at Swiecko, the border station for the Warsaw-



Reagan calls scandal book on Nancy absurd

NEW YORK (R) — Former President Ronald Reagan said Monday a startling biography of his wife, Nancy, contains flagrant and absurd falsehoods, but scandal-loving Americans headed to their local book shop regardless.

Copies of Nancy Reagan, the Unauthorised Biography, were snapped up by the thousands, demand fuelled by widespread reports of its claims that the former first lady ran the country during her husband's presidency, had an affair with Frank Sinatra and once smoked marijuana.

Author Kitty Kelley, who specialises in celebrity-shock biographies, said Mrs. Reagan was the most powerful woman the United States has ever known.

"She was indeed our president for eight years," Kelley told Reuters. "She ran the country. We should be very grateful to Mrs. Reagan because she was a good president."

Ronald Reagan, however, said Kelley's claims "clearly exceed the bounds of decency."

"They are patently untrue — everything from the allegation of marijuana use to marital infidel-

Reagan calls scandal book on Nancy absurd

ity to my failure to be present at the birth of my daughter, Patti, Reagan said in a statement.

The book claims that the former president continued to see one of his longtime girl friends after he married Nancy Reagan and charged that he was with her when Patti, now estranged from her family, was born.

"While I am accustomed to reports that stray from the truth, the flagrant and absurd falsehoods cited in a recently published book clearly exceed the bounds of decency," Reagan said.

The allegations of a Nancy-Sinatra affair were splashed over the front of New York's tabloids while pages of inside stories recounted Kelley's allegations of Ronald Reagan's promiscuity in his early Hollywood days. Even the August New York Times played the charges on page one.

In an interview with Reuters, Kelley, 48, said she stood by her claims based on more than 1,000 interviews over four years with estranged family members, alienated former staff members as well as friends of the Reagans.

Kelley said Mrs. Reagan's most

Reagan calls scandal book on Nancy absurd

significant act in the White House was pushing her husband into a dialogue with the Soviet Union, which eventually led to the end of the cold war.

Kelley also said Nancy Reagan hated George Bush and had nicknamed Reagan's former vice president "whiney."

The first lady never forgave Bush for running against Reagan in the 1980 Republican primary and disparaged him behind his back as weak and spineless, she said.

Kelley, who earned a \$3.5 million advance from publisher Simon and Schuster for the book on Mrs. Reagan, wrote in earlier biographies that Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis underwent shock treatment, that former President John F. Kennedy's retarded sister, Rosemary, had a lobotomy, and that Sinatra's mother was an abortionist.

Kelley also says in her new book that the Reagans smoked marijuana at a dinner party in the late 1960s when Reagan was still governor of California.

According to White House aides quoted by Kelley, Mrs.

1 killed and 30 escape in Bangladesh prison revolt

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh said Tuesday it had crushed a revolt in Dhaka's maximum security jail in which at least one prisoner was killed, over 100 were wounded and up to 30 managed to escape.

The paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) denied earlier reports by prison officials and local residents that they had used machineguns to put down the revolt Monday night.

"We helped police trying to put down the trouble inside Dhaka Jail but we did not use machineguns," a BDR officer said.

Prison guards said the BDR helped crush the uprising with rifle fire after 30 prisoners escaped by exploding crude fragmentation bombs and firing guns stolen from warders.

They said the rioting started after other prisoners, encouraged by the escape, clashed with police and warders in a mass bid to go free.

The bombs thrown by the escaping prisoners were cans packed with explosive and metal fragments they had clandestinely made inside the jails.

Takeshita's right-hand man heads Japan's ruling party

TOKYO (R) — Keizo Obuchi, who became the new head of Japan's ruling party Tuesday, is a right-hand man of former Premier Noboru Takeshita.

Obuchi, who served in Takeshita's 1987-1989 administration as chief cabinet secretary, has assumed the powerful post of secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

He succeeds Ichiro Ozawa, who took responsibility for his party's defeat in the Tokyo gubernatorial election.

"I will try my best to preserve the unity of the party," Obuchi said in a news conference.

Voters in the capital returned incumbent Governor Shunichi Suzuki, who was supported by local LDP chapter rebels, in an overwhelming triumph Monday.

Obuchi's statement reflected the party's wish to mend the split that divided its national headquarters from the local Tokyo chapter at the time of the Tokyo governor's poll.

Obuchi was selected according to the rules of factional politics that govern the LDP. Like Ozawa, Obuchi is a deputy leader of Takeshita's faction.

Aborigines find stolen opals in Australian outback

SYDNEY (R) — Crime won't pay for an Australian opal thief thanks to a group of aboriginal women who discovered his haul buried in the desert while attending tribal rituals. After burying the opals, worth 500,000 Australian dollars (\$385,000), in a sandy grave in the outback five months ago the thief disappeared, content nobody else would find his booty. But nine days ago a group of aboriginal women attending tribal rituals in the desert noticed a shallow grave, scratched the surface and discovered a suitcase containing the stolen gems. "I'd really kissed them goodbye," the opals' owner, John Anderson, said by telephone from Mintabie, a small mining town 1,100 kilometres north of Adelaide. A police spokesman in nearby Cooper Pedy said the opals were found on March 31, buried beside a dirt track about 25 kilometres outside Mintabie. He said no one has been arrested for the theft, which occurred on Nov. 16, 1990, in Mintabie.

Pakistanis seize 2 tonnes of hashish

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani customs officers seized two tonnes of hashish from a container at Karachi Port, a customs spokesman said Monday. The drugs, seized Sunday, were concealed in a false wall of a container packed with bath robes waiting for export to an unnamed port in Europe.

Bikers blockade Australian parliament

CANBERRA (R) — Hundreds of leather-clad motorcyclists, protesting against plans to make them keep headlights on in daylight, blocked roads to Australia's parliament for an hour, jamming traffic and making politicians walk. The government plans to introduce laws this year to have motorcycle ignition lights linked to the light systems so that lights can never be turned off, making the bikes more visible. But bikers leader Andy Hart told reporters it was not proven that lights permanently on would save lives. "We won't be able to flash our headlights any more. That's a better way of showing motorists our presence," he said. Hart said the symbolic blockade had been effective. "We had a few politicians who had to get out of their cars and walk up to the entrances. Shame, isn't it?"